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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support a proposal to impose a new \$6.50 charge on each airline passenger arriving in the CNMI?

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INSIDE



Engine Fire

An engine blaze erupts under the hood of a car at the Shell Gualo Rai station.

LOCAL...Page 5



Unsafe Driving

A Nevada trucking company has been cited repeatedly for crashes, unsafe driving.

NATION...Page 14

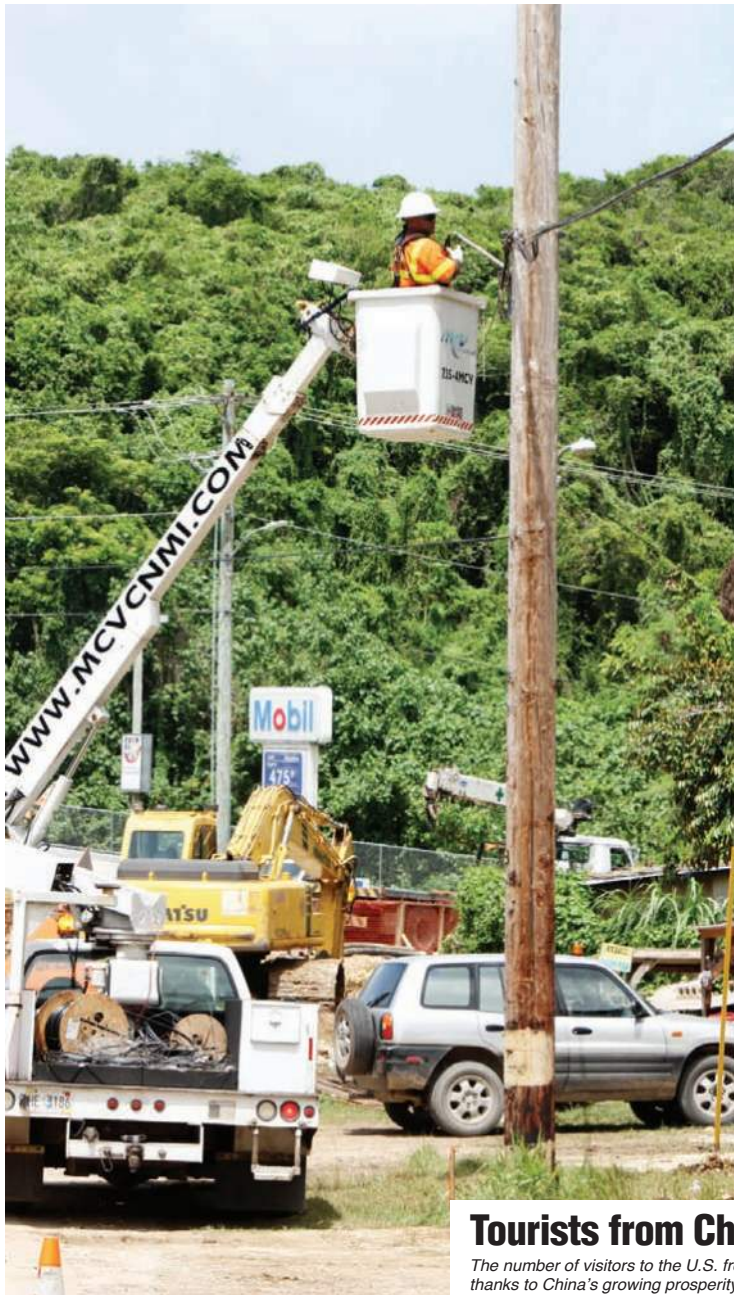


Royal Wedding 2

Charlene Wittstock has not one, but two tough acts to follow.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

NMI Fund's investments drop by \$9M in May. **PAGE 3**
'Fitial appointee to MVA board not a citizen' **PAGE 7**



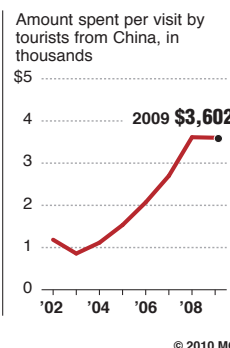
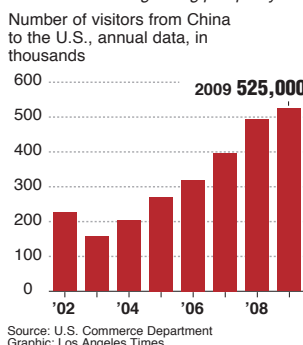
CABLE, POWER RELOCATION

A crewmember for the Marianas Cable Vision works on relocating television cable wires as the Cross Island-Isa Drive road expansion project reaches the border of Papago and Kagman yesterday afternoon. A few meters away were Kimco Inc. crewmembers also relocating Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power lines because of the road project.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Tourists from China

The number of visitors to the U.S. from China has been increasing thanks to China's growing prosperity.



\$40.7K grant sought for prevailing wage survey

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration has applied for a \$40,701.99 grant application with the U.S. Department of Labor to commission a prevailing wage survey—separate from the one that the Saipan Chamber of Commerce is conducting for an estimated cost of \$20,000. **See WAGE on Page 4**

» Admin to conduct survey with or without grant approval

DPS, FBI monitoring 'classified leads'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety in collaboration with the FBI, continues to monitor "classified leads" in the mysterious disappearance of sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk.

Press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that details and specifics of these leads cannot be disclosed at this time as investigations are still active and ongoing.

"Nonetheless, the Fitial administration re-

mains grateful for the investigative efforts of the hardworking personnel at DPS and the FBI even as efforts have been adjusted to keep expenses within the resources readily available," Demapan said.

He said the Fitial administration is aware that a great deal of resources have been spent on the search for 10-year-old Faloma and 9-year-old Maleina since they went missing on May 25 but he assured the family and the public that authorities will continue the investigation.

See DPS on Page 4

Stores push for Chinese tourists

By ELIZABETH HOLMES
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The luxury business is counting on Chinese demand to drive growth—but a big chunk of that spending isn't happening in China.

Chinese tourists are an increasingly important part of the equation, and U.S. retailers are feeling left out, thanks to a clunky visa process that can force would-be tourists to wait months for permission to travel.

Last year, 38 percent of Chinese travelers on long-distance trips visited

See STORES on Page 4

» Visitors from China are big spenders in US but visa red tape means they often opt for Europe

HR MATTERS: I was just recently promoted and now I supervise my friends that I was working alongside of just a few days ago. I don't want to lose my friends, but I want to do my job well. What should I do? **See Frank Gibson's response on PAGE 13**



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Local

Garrison promises to unleash 'hailstorm of info'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison will be attending a meeting with members of House Committee on Education to defend himself against several issues being raised against him.

He confirmed receiving the panel's invitation and assured that he will provide rebuttal to all the allegations that were raised against his leadership.

"I got the letter [today] and it is likely I will attend this one as I have now seen the testimony and will offer my rebuttal, but

more than that I will be unleashing a hailstorm of information about every employee I can without regard to privacy as they seem to see fit to have done themselves," Garrison to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. He did not elaborate.

Garrison, along with Board of Education members and Education Commissioner Rita Sablan, was invited to the meeting on July 6 after they snubbed a public hearing that had intended to tackle the same issue.



Garrison

Eight individuals, mostly MHS teachers, testified against Garrison at the first public hearing on Capital Hill. They asked lawmakers to intervene and oust Garrison, whom they described as arrogant and disrespectful to teachers and students.

Garrison earlier described the efforts of lawmakers as micro-management. This was denied by committee chair Rep. Raymond Palacios (Cov.-Saipan).

"I don't understand their insistence on this other than to say

that they appear to be attempting to seek answers to questions that any reasonable person would already have the answers to. I would also add that I was always taught that if one wanted to know the truth about something, then one should go to the source. However, no one has ever stopped by to see me, unfortunately really," Garrison said.

BOE chair Marylou Ada said yesterday that she has yet to receive any letter or invitation to appear before the House education panel.

MHS teacher James Yangetmai led a four-day protest against Garrison in April.



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A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Suwaso Korea Golf Tournament



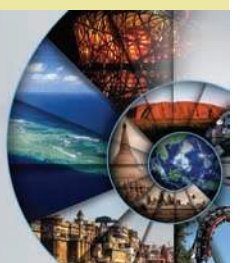
Coral Ocean Point Resort and **Suwaso Korea** recently hosted their first Korean golf tournament with the goal of luring golf group tours to the Northern Marianas and supporting travel agents by subsidizing the cost of such tours.

Sixty VIPs of Suwaso travelled to Saipan to participate in the tournament, which was held from May 26-30, 2011. **Asiana Airlines** and the **Marianas Visitors Authority** also supported the event, which was promoted on the Suwaso website and via telemarketing to Suwaso VIP customers.

Due to the success of the event, Suwaso had planned to hold a second tournament in June 2011 with a projected 140 golfers. In May 2011, nine percent of all Korea visitors to the Northern Marianas came to golf, a 39 percent increase over May 2010.



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NMI Fund's investment assets drop by \$9M in May

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund recorded a significant decline in its market investments last

Another lawyer is leaving OAG

Assistant attorney general Meaghan Hassel-Shearer is leaving the Office of the Attorney General, where she has been working for four years now at the Civil Division.

Hassel-Shearer confirmed yesterday that her last day of employment with the OAG is the end of July.

"It's [a] family reason, a personal reason," she said.

Hassel-Shearer said she will be moving to Washington, D.C. not to pursue her law practice but "to take care of family."

"I've enjoyed my time with the AG's Office immeasurably,"

month—a loss of almost \$9 million.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez said the pension program's investment portfolio was valued at \$320.4 million

she added.

Hassel-Shearer has been the legal counsel of the Election Commission for four years now. She also represented the Department of Public Safety and many other government agencies in several lawsuits.

"I've enjoyed working here and obviously I'm going to miss my friends and co-workers," she said.

Hassel-Shearer will be the 12th assistant attorney general to leave the OAG during Edward T. Buckingham's term as attorney general. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Kilili wants Job Corps center in US territories

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan introduced last week a bill that will allow a Job Corps center to be established in the CNMI and other U.S. territories.

The 1998 Workforce Investment Act only authorizes Job Corps training sites in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

"Having a Job Corps center in the NMI would mean our young people would not have to leave to get the training they need and local businesses would benefit from a skilled workforce connected to our community and committed to remaining," Sablan said.

Currently, Hawaii is the nearest Job Corps center.

Sablan said 20 people from the CNMI trained there between

2005 and 2009, but only six were placed in jobs in the CNMI.

"My amendment to the law gives the Secretary of Labor the authority to consider all parts of our country as potential locations for future Job Corps centers. Of course, this is just a first step. Bringing a Job Corps training facility to the NMI will require money, and money is in short supply in Washington these days. But we have to lay the groundwork," Sablan added.

As of June 24, Sablan's legislation had 26 co-sponsors, including American Samoa Delegate Eni Faleomavaega, U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate Donna Christensen, Guam Delegate Madeline Bordallo and Puerto Rico Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

as of May 31, 2011, a big drop from the \$329.2 million posted in April 30, 2011.

Fund records indicate that April saw a positive monthly return of 2.89 percent in its investments compared to a negative -1.28 percent return in May.

The dismal market performance also dragged down the fiscal year returns from 15.74 percent in April to 14.26 percent in May.

The Fund's assets are invested in common stocks, fixed income, hedge funds, and money market. Besides investments in international markets, the Fund's portfolio also includes

local investments: the Member Home Loan Program, investments in Group Health Life

Insurance, interest payments on the judicial building loan, and the Commonwealth Government Employee Credit Union.

The Fund is currently in transition with the adoption of a new asset allocation model and the entry of new money managers. From eight, the agency now has 11 companies handling its diverse portfolio.

Drawdown

Villagomez also disclosed yesterday that total drawdown—withdrawals from the investment fund—now totals \$37.4 million as of June 10, 2011.

The Fund earlier projected that the drawdown amount may exceed the authorized ceiling of \$52.4 million by the end of

the fiscal year in September due to the government's cash-flow problems. Continued delays in the central government's employer contribution are seen to boost the Fund's drawdown amount by \$800,000 beyond the authorized ceiling.

The Fund has an average monthly drawdown of around \$2.4 million.

Drawdown funds are used to pay for the pension benefits of members and other obligations.

In fiscal year 2010, the Fund noted some \$14 million "savings" in its projected drawdown as a result of increased contribution from the government and remittance of taxes pursuant to a court judgment.

Meantime, in its meeting on Rota Friday, the board of trustees deferred any discussion and decision on the long-delayed

pension software system.

The board earlier uncovered that the Fund had already paid over \$402,000 for a non-functioning pension software project designed by Express Electronics Ltd. It was initiated in 2008 and has yet to be completed despite being 90-percent paid. The board recently hired a program analyst who uncovered several inaccuracies that may take more time and resources to fix.

The Fund's decision whether to pursue the project or not will be based on the program analyst's final evaluation report.

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Froilan wants to give Saipan casino revenue to Fund

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) wants to amend a controversial local bill seeking to legalize casino gambling on Saipan, mainly to give all business gross revenue tax earnings from the Saipan casino industry to cover the NMI Retirement Fund's unfunded liability.

"When all the unfunded liability is taken cared of, then the business gross revenue tax earnings could be used for

other things," Tenorio said.

The NMI Retirement Fund's accrued unfunded liability was at \$619.7 million as of Feb. 28, 2011. This means for every dollar the Fund owes its beneficiaries, only about 36 cents is funded.

Tenorio, a former governor and speaker, shared his proposal to amend Rep. Stanley Torres's (Ind-Saipan) House Local Bill 17-44 during yesterday afternoon's House leadership meeting.

"I do not want taxpayers to be burdened with paying for the govern-

ment's pension program. It can be covered by having the casino industry pay for the Fund's unfunded liability. ... Who knows, six years from now, retirees won't be able to receive pension checks if we don't do something about it now," he said.

Tenorio said he has other amendments to the bill, including those pertaining to the allowable number of casino operators.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegations'

Committee on Judiciary and Government Investigations, which is reviewing the local casino bill, said they will consider proposed amendments to the measure before they issue a report on the bill.

Palacios' committee and the delegation's Ways and Means Committee recently wrapped up public hearings on the bill.

Tenorio's former House bill legalizing casinos on Saipan passed the House, only to be killed by the Sen-

ate. The Senate wants Saipan voters to again decide whether to allow casinos on Saipan.

This prompted Torres to introduce a local bill to legalize casino gambling, so that the measure doesn't have to go through the Senate.

But the Senate leadership said it will be taking the matter to court if and when the Saipan delegation passes the local casino bill, which it describes as "unconstitutional."

But the Senate leadership is also considering support for the submission of a certified question to the court on the constitutionality of the casino bill.

New cargo airline seen to help local farmers, ranchers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Local farmers expressed support for Tony Pellegrino's plan to establish a cargo airline, Cargo Air Bridge, saying that the project will help the agriculture industry in the Commonwealth.

Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho praised Pellegrino on Friday "for taking action" to help farmers.

"This cargo [airline] will address the issue of expensive freight cost, which hampers farmers in shipping their produce within the CNMI and to Guam," he said.

With the CNMI's economic situation, Camacho said that venturing into farming will be beneficial for the entire community.

Sabalu Farmers Market president Isidoro T. Cabrera said he supports Pellegrino's CAB venture "100 percent."

"I personally will be investing my money there and purchase stocks," he said in a phone interview.

According to Cabrera, the presence of a cargo airline company will increase agricultural production of local farmers as they can now market and sell their commodities to other islands.

"Right now, we're very limited. We're only producing for our domestic market," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

With the high cost of freight, Cabrera said CAB is a venture that is "very attractive and beneficial" and is "something that local farmers have been waiting for a long time."

"Because Mr. Pellegrino has the resources and capability, he's putting up his money to help revive our agriculture industry. It will improve our economy," he added.

Farmers co-op, educational process

Camacho said that with a cargo airline in the horizon, a farmers' cooperative is more imperative now.

"If you work on exporting agricultural products, you talk about consis-

tency. ... If we put this in a concept of a co-op, then the co-op will handle everything for the farmers," he explained.

Camacho said the farmers' support group, composed of the council, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services, will be meeting to discuss the prospects of a farmers' co-op.

"We're waiting for a land designation where we can build the co-op but I talked to Tony who said he has an available property in Garapan. We're going to look into it," he said.

Cabrera, who is the agriculture consultant of NMC-CREES, said the program will be involved in the educational process on the farmers' side. This process includes the teaching farmers the variety of produce they need to grow and standardized packaging for all products.

"We need to know the demands of our buyers and consumers. We have to know what they want," he added.

STORES

From Page 1

Europe, according to the U.S. Travel Association. Just 13 percent came to the U.S.

Chinese visitors spend on average more than \$6,000 apiece when they are in the U.S., more than twice their counterparts from the U.K., according to the travel association. With that in mind, U.S.-based retailers are lobbying the State Department to ease the visa process for Chinese visitors.

"There's an extraordinary amount of luxury goods sold to Chinese in Europe and other countries," Roger Farah, chief operating officer of Polo Ralph Lauren Corp., said in an interview. "We're not getting our full fair share in the U.S."

U.S. retailers have rushed to set up shop in mainland China, where sales of luxury goods are expected to reach \$16.9 billion this year, a 25-percent increase from last year, according to consultants at Bain & Co. Yet the Chinese are expected to spend as much, if not more, overseas, according to Bain.

Aiming for a bigger share of that largesse, luxury companies including Polo and Saks Inc. are working through industry groups to press Congress for funding that would let the State Department process visas more quickly.

In an interview, Saks CEO Steve Sadove said he is cognizant of the hurdles, including national security concerns.

"Nobody wants to minimize that impact and risk, but what we've got to do is find a balance," he said. Increased international tourism "could have an enormous impact on business," he added.

Reducing wait times is a primary goal. Getting a visa interview in Beijing currently takes about 57 days, according to the State Department. In Shanghai, it can take 65 days. Wait times can run twice as long due to a lack of proper U.S. technology and staffing abroad, says Geoff Freeman, executive vice president at the U.S. Travel Association. The U.S. has consular offices in half a dozen Chinese cities, requiring people who don't live near those locations to travel, he says.

The groups' goal is to get wait times down to 10 days by hiring more staff, reassigning them to high-demand markets, setting up a fast-lane process and expanding a waiver program.

Even with the visa hurdles, the number of Chinese visiting the U.S. has risen dramatically in recent years. Arrivals totaled 802,000 last year, more than four times the number of Chinese who visited the U.S. in 2003, according to the Commerce Department's Office of Travel and Tourism Industries. Nearly all—94 percent—went shopping here, beating out restaurants, sightseeing and museums as the most popular activity.

The Commerce Department says Chinese tourists spent \$5 billion in the U.S. last year, up 39 percent from the prior year.

"There are a lot of Chinese with money burning holes in their pockets," says Erik Autor, vice president and international trade counsel for the National Retail Federation.

Active spending by the wealthiest shoppers has returned sales of luxury goods to pre-recession levels after several difficult years. China is delivering the fastest growth.

Handbag maker Coach Inc. says it is seeing strong response by Chinese shoppers to its handbags and other accessories in China—where sales are expected to reach \$185 million this fiscal year, more than three times its sales from fiscal 2009—as well as a lot of business from Chinese travelers in Europe and the U.S.

"The Chinese retail travel business is a very substantial opportunity for Coach," says Victor Luis, president of Coach's International Retail. Luis says the company supports efforts to strengthen ties between U.S. and Chinese governments, including "ties driven by easier access to tourism."

Tour company AmericanTours International LLC, which has seen interest from China increase in recent years, includes shopping destinations as part of its travel itineraries for Chinese visitors. The cross-country package includes stops on Rodeo Drive and Fifth Avenue, as well as outlet malls in Middle America.

"They want to go there," says co-founder Noel Irwin Hentschel. "It's part of what they ask for."

WAGE

From Page 1

Whether U.S. Labor approves or denies the grant application, the CNMI government will still pursue its own prevailing wage survey, said press secretary Angel Demapan yesterday.

"We believe the one that's commissioned by the government should be the official survey," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

As of yesterday, U.S. Labor has yet to approve the CNMI government's grant application.

A prevailing wage survey, among other things, is needed by CNMI employers to support their applications for their foreign employees' U.S. work visas.

Demapan said that having the government commission the survey eliminates any form of impropriety. But he said nothing prevents the Chamber from conducting its own prevailing wage survey.

Richard Pierce, Chamber executive director, said yesterday that "the Chamber is committed to getting a comprehensive survey completed as soon as possible."

He reiterated that the "more surveys done, the better," and "the sooner, the better."

While the Chamber's goal is to survey and determine prevailing wage rates for as many standard occupational classifications as possible, the CNMI's grant application covers four O-NET job classifications "that are of high priority for the tourist sector" of the CNMI economy.

Demapan said the CNMI Department of Labor is the lead agency for the survey, and will team up with the CNMI Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division.

"They will put together a survey team, and may contract the actual survey. We need this as fast as we can," he said.

Demapan said the administration informed the Chamber about its prevailing wage survey last month.

The Chamber, the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members, has already started work on a prevailing wage survey, in partnership with other business groups and organizations.

It will contract with the Guam Employers Council, which specializes in extensive services in wage and salary management and prevailing wage surveys. That contract alone could cost anywhere between \$10,000 and \$15,000, but total cost of the project is estimated at \$20,000, said Pierce.

The survey will provide valuable data for the process of determining prevailing wage rates for individual job classifications, while petitioning for foreign labor work visas under the new requirements of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the U.S. Department of Labor's Foreign Labor Certification Office, the Chamber said.

Demapan, meanwhile, said they intend to complete the survey by November 2011.

The CNMI government's grant application with the U.S. Labor was submitted by the CNMI Department of Labor and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's office.

The authorized point of contact in

the CNMI is CNMI labor administration director Barbara T. Sablan, while the authorized point of contact in Washington, D.C. is Lynn Knight.

The grant application is for a two-month start up project that will support personnel costs, data retrieval and processing costs, and associated administrative expenses for the development of the necessary capability to do prevailing wage surveys for businesses in the CNMI.

It will also fund the proving out of the new prevailing wage capability by the actual preparation of prevailing wage surveys for four O-Net job classifications.

The application says the capability to do prevailing wage surveys in the CNMI is an "interim measure needed over the next few years, while the federal minimum wage applicable to the Commonwealth gradually comes up to the level of the federal minimum wage applicable elsewhere in the United States."

"Once the Commonwealth's minimum wage is the same as the minimum wage applicable elsewhere, the normal U.S. Labor Department processes would apply," the application partly reads.

The prevailing wage is different from—and is generally higher than—the minimum wage, which is currently \$5.05 an hour in the CNMI.

Without a CNMI prevailing wage survey, CNMI employers will be forced to pay the rates similar to those of other U.S. states and territories that are much higher and not reflective of the conditions in the local economy.

DPS

From Page 1

tion to ensure that "there are no stones left unturned."

"Undoubtedly, several weeks have passed since the search operations commenced [but] all hope is not lost at this point. As law enforcement authorities continue to search for much needed answers, we continue to ask the public for their patience and cooperation,"

Demapan said.

While some time has passed, Demapan said they do not construe the situation as a "failure" or a "frustration."

"Until such time that a decision is handed down reflecting that all options have been exhausted, the ongoing operation remains a work in progress," he said.

Despite the \$50,000 cash reward for information on the Luhk sisters, tips and leads have dried up, according to the FBI.

Trainings help Shell station employees put out blaze

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

May 13 was a regular working day for Billy Dela Cruz, Robert Mendiola, Patsy Isaac, and Ron Ealy, who all work at the Shell Gualo Rai Station, which is operated by Delta Management Saipan.

Dela Cruz, a gas attendant, recounted that he was half-way through his five-hour shift when, at 7:10pm, he noticed flames licking the underside of a silver Ford Taurus that had just finished gassing up.

Dela Cruz said the engine blaze that broke out was caused by electrical short circuit.

"It just started to come on fire after a male customer finished gassing up the car," recalled Dela Cruz, who called 911 and pressed the emergency gas

pump as his co-worker Ealy, also a gas attendant, raced to get a fire extinguisher to put out the fire. They eventually needed four fire extinguishers to fully quench the blaze.

By the time the Fire Department arrived some 20 minutes later, Dela Cruz said they had already extinguished the fire.

The vehicle was moved off the premises and the service station was shut down for a two-hour cleanup before being reopened to the public.

Dela Cruz said it was his first time to be in a situation when he had to use all the skills he learned from the various trainings he had attended when he started working for Shell.

"I was nervous the whole time but you have to have presence of mind," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "We had to

get rid of the car to avoid any explosion."

Delta Management president Jim Arenovski, who was called to the scene by the four-member team, said they are extremely proud of their staff and their quick action to avert a potentially serious fire.

"Safety is a cornerstone of our operations and we conduct safety training on a regular basis for all of our staff," he said.

IP&E, the Shell licensee on

Saipan, held an appreciation luncheon for the four employees at the Fiesta Resort & Spa last June 15 in recognition of their exemplary efforts.

Eloy Lizama, chief operating officer, praised the employees for their quick action and safety consciousness.

"IP&E is committed to a culture of safety. We understand what to do in the case of an emergency and are always looking for new ways to make

the workplace safer," he said.

IP&E CNMI area manager Jeff Boyer said that Shell staff are well-trained in handling situations like this as they attend trainings and refresher courses.

"We have the right people and certainly the trainings are there. They responded appropriately. As far as our customers are concerned, we certainly stand by our people to handle this kind of situation," he said.



From left front, Delta Management's Patsy Isaac, Billy Dela Cruz, Chris Justino, and Ephrem Gaangin. From left back, IP&E CNMI area manager Jeff Boyer, Delta Management's Ron Ealy and Robert Mendiola, IP&E director of retail sales & operations Fred Keller, and Delta Management president Jim Arenovski.

6 aliens charged with improper entry plead guilty, get time served sentence

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Six persons who were allegedly recruited in China and promised work in the CNMI while pretending to come in as tourists entered guilty pleas in federal court last week.

Zhongjun Yu, Cuilan Ma, Chungping Li, Lifei Bian, Shoujun Yin, and Zhipeng Ren each pleaded guilty to one count of improper entry as part of a plea deal with the U.S. government.

U.S. District Court for the NMI judge A. Wallace Tashima sentenced the six to time served and ordered that they be turned over to an immigration official for deportation. He ordered the immediate release of the defendants.

Attorney Joseph Norita Camacho, counsel for Yu, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Yu is thankful to the Department of Homeland Security for expediting this case and for recommending a sentence of time served of only a few days so he can return to China and be with his family.

"As a poor man from China, Yu is especially thankful for waiving

all fines, including the \$10 assessment fee," Camacho said.

The defendants, who are all Chinese nationals, arrived in the CNMI on May 30, 2011, by commercial airline from China with the intention of finding work.

When they arrived at the Saipan International Airport, they told immigration authorities, however, that they were tourists and were allowed in. The six then began looking for work in the Commonwealth.

According to Immigration and Customs Enforcement special agent Isra D. Harahap, they began investigation on May 27, 2011, when a cooperating source informed him and a Homeland Security Investigations agent that a Chinese national named Ms. Honglian Cheng had been communicating with the source about bringing in several Chinese nationals to work in the CNMI.

ICE agents recently arrested Cheng and Li Hua, who were subsequently charged in federal court. Cheng was allegedly responsible for bringing the six defendants to Saipan, while Hua was the one who recruited them in China.

DPS sets sobriety checkpoints

The Traffic Section of the Department of Public Safety's Police Division will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints this weekend.

■ Friday, July 1, 2011, 9pm-10:15pm, Chalan Pale Arnold Highway, Chalan Lau-lau, by IT&E Building.

■ Saturday, July 2, 2011, 12:30am-1:45am, Beach Road Susupe in front of the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion.

■ Saturday, July 2, 2011, 8pm-9:15pm, Chalan Pale Arnold Highway, Puerto Rico, by the U.S. Army Reserve Center.

■ Sunday, July 3, 2011, 1am-2:15am, Beach Road Chalan

Laulau by Dr. Benusto Kaipat's residence.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes).

In addition, traffic officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement.

This activity is part of DPS' effort to deter, detect, and apprehend impaired drivers and to ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

For more information, contact Sergeant Anthony Macaranas, Traffic Section, at 664-9084 or 9085. (**DPS**)



StayWell Saipan, Inc. has an immediate opening for the following position:

Health Support Representative

This is a full-time position with responsibilities to include reviewing of health records at on-site medical facilities and issue pre-certification of plan benefit coverage. Qualified applicants must have the following:

- BS Nursing or Allied Health Degree required;
- Experience in medical chart review required;
- Must be able to work independently;
- Must have good verbal and written communication skills;
- Must be proficient with Microsoft Word and Excel; and
- Must have a valid driver's license and willingness to use personal vehicle in the course of work.

All interested individuals may apply in person at Flame Tree Terrace Office Building, Suite 200, Lower Capitol Hill on or before July 6, 2011.

StayWell is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,]	
Plaintiff,]	
vs.]	Civil Action
RICARDO R. DADO and DELIA S. DADO,]	No. 09-0466-CV
Defendants.]	

AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION / JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 12th day of November, 2010, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **7th day of July, 2011 at 10 a.m.**, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Tract 21878-3, (part of original Tract 21878, AH 575), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2035/80, the original of which was registered on August 19, 1980 as Document No. 10610 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the Auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c) To reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@opticom.com.
3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 31st day of May, 2011.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Woman allegedly steals \$23,300 from her ex-husband

The former wife of the owner of Kevin's Department Store was arrested on Friday for allegedly breaking into his department store in Chalan Kanoa and stealing \$23,300 from the safety deposit box.

Police arrested Zhao Xiaolan, 35, for burglary and theft in Garapan. Bail was set at \$25,000 cash.

Preliminary hearing will be on July 5 at 1:30pm. Assistant public defender Richard Miller was appointed to represent Xiaolan. Assistant attorney general Shelli Neal appeared for the government.

Besides the \$25,000 cash bail, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo also ordered Xiaolan yesterday to stay away from Kevin's Department Store and its owner, Ting Jian Tang, also known as Kevin.

Detective Steven A. Castro stated in his report that Tang reported on June 20 a burglary and theft incident at his department store.

Castro said that Tang told detectives that he deposited \$1,700 cash into his safety deposit box in his room last June 13. Tang recorded the total amount in the safety deposit box at \$23,300.

When Tang opened the box on June 20 to pay his contractor, he discovered that the \$23,300 was missing. An undetermined amount of Chinese currency was, however, intact.

Tang told detectives that he discovered from his employees and through the surveillance camera that his former wife, Xiaolan, had arrived at the store and was seen entering the hallway that leads to his room.

The businessman said his room was not messed up and that only his ex-wife knows the location of the keys and how to open the safe deposit box.

During a review of the surveillance camera, Castro said they saw Xiaolan entering the hallway that leads to Tang's room on June 17 at 2pm. After five minutes, the suspect was seen walking away from the hallway; this time her purse appeared to be bulky.

Tang told police that he and the suspect have been separated since April 2009 when she moved back to China. Tang said he and Xiaolan were legally divorced on March 21, 2011, and that his former wife has a history of taking money from him without his consent. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



CLARISSA V. DAVID

In this file photo, young female participants of the 2010 Summer Reading & Cultural Fair smile for the camera at the recognition ceremony in August 2010. Registration is now open for this year's program, which will run from July 2 to 30.

Over 400 attend NMC's Cash for College workshop



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College human resource manager John Manalo, left, assists students sign up for Saturday's Cash for College event. The free workshop, which drew more than 400 participants who received assistance in filling financial aid forms, was made possible by the U.S. Department of Education's Cash for College Grant Program.

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 400 people attended the Cash for College workshop at the Northern Marianas College held on campus Saturday.

The workshop, aimed at assisting students and their parents maximize scholarship opportunities that are available to students seeking to obtain a college education, had 440 participants from the three main public high schools on island: Marianas High School, Kagman High School, and Saipan Southern High School.

In a statement yesterday, NMC said that some of the event's participants also included parents of students and current students of the college.

Saipan Tribune learned that participants received step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Aid or SHEFA, and the CNMI Scholarship. Staff members from the Office of Admissions and Records were also present to provide information and assistance with the NMC application process.

The Cash for College workshop was

made possible with the financial support of the U.S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant Program. The College Access Challenge Project aims to increase the number of students from underrepresented minority populations enrolled in college.

Last Saturday's workshop was the fourth event hosted by NMC in the past two years. It has already started efforts to offer similar events on Rota and Tinian.

"We are extremely pleased with the turn out of students for the Cash for College event. We are glad to see that so many students are taking advantage of the financial aid packages that are offered from different sources," said Student Services dean Leo Pangelinan.

He advised those students who missed the Cash for College event to visit NMC's Financial Aid Office to get assistance in filling up forms.

"The college is working to have more events like these that help students maximize the resources that's available to them," said interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera, who also recognized and commended the hardworking students, staff, and faculty who gave up their Saturday to volunteer for the Cash for College event.

Registration starts for library's summer program

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Registration has begun for the Summer Reading & Cultural Fair of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe.

The Fair is an annual program that aims to provide fun and educational activities for students during the summer break. This year's activities include Movie Nights, Humanities Week, Special Guest book readings on Fridays, Homework Center – Website Research, and Read Aloud & Craft.

Movie Nights will be held on Wednesdays from 5pm to 6:30pm. Humanities Week, which features lectures on history/archeology, literature, and art history, will have morning and afternoon sessions. Special guests will make an appearance on Fridays, from 9am to 11am.

Read Aloud & Craft is scheduled every Saturday and will feature bead making and local dances, among others. The Homework Center – Website Research is for fourth grade students or older and will have two morning sessions.

The program, which will run from July 2 to 30, is open for children age 6 to 12 years who have a valid library card and are clear of library obligations. Older children are welcome to participate.

Those who want to join but do not have a library card may apply for a card by presenting a document that shows proof of address, such as postmarked mail, billings, and a valid ID.

Jennifer Rospel, acting library executive director, said many regular patrons have already registered as early as June 25 despite the lack of publicity.

"We usually have a lot of participants in this program every year, sometimes reaching to over 100 students," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

The deadline for registration is July 2.

The program will culminate with an appreciation and recognition ceremony for participants and sponsors on July 30.

Rospel encourages the student community to avail of the Summer Reading & Cultural Fair activities, which are for free.

"Students should take advantage of this program as it serves as a learning experience for children who are on their summer vacation," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

For more information, call 235-READ (7323) or 7322 or visit their website at www.cnmilibrary.com.

CPA opposes rate hike plan for airport, seaport charges

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will strongly oppose rate hike proposals for airport and seaport charges, saying the idea will not only have a grave impact on the economy but will also conflict with existing agency regulations.

Ports authority comptroller Derek Sasamoto told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that House Bill 17-199 is a bad idea to enforce in times of economic hardship.

Rep. Ray Yumul (Rep-Saipan) pre-filed H.B. 17-199 on Friday, proposing to impose fees up to \$25 on passengers landing at CNMI airports and seaports. The objective is to generate more than \$3 million for the central government so it could restore timely payroll and 80 work hours for government employees.

The bill seeks to authorize CPA to impose and collect a \$6.50 charge on each airline passenger, a \$5 document charge for those with cargo, and \$25 on consignees for "consolidated consignments" of cargo. Interest for late pay-

ments is also proposed, among others.

Sasamoto said this measure conflicts with the mandates of the law that created CPA as an autonomous agency. He said all activities in the ports authority is supposed to generate funds only for CPA and not for the central government.

"[Increasing rates] on behalf of the government is a conflict in our regulation. It's not going to affect in any way our financial statements because none of those monies will go or be used by CPA but by the central government," said Sasamoto.

He said the agency is now preparing its formal response to the proposal.

The measure, he added, may also be tackled with the Federal Aviation Administration at its next regular teleconference.

Yumul's bill comes at the time when the local economy and visitor arrivals are both declining.

At a recent CPA board meeting, CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero and board chair Jose Lifofoi separately said that no increases are being eyed for any ports and airport charges.

Despite the agency's financial problems, they said that CPA chose instead to implement cost-cutting measures by conserving energy costs and freezing all hiring and travels just so it could maintain the 80-hour work schedule of its 198 employees. The agency has also enforced aggressive collection efforts to generate funds.

Sasamoto is confident in the management and the board's decision to maintain the status quo.

"Any additional tax imposed on airlines will affect the travel industry because for sure these airlines will pass on the cost to the passengers and what we're trying to do here in CPA is attract more people to come here. It is all about demand and raising the tax especially at this time will possibly lower the demand," he said.

Saipan Tribune learned that CPA last increased seaport rates and charges in February 2009 while airport fees were adjusted in 2008.

Since the Japan earthquake and subsequent tsunami on March 11, airlines have cancelled flights, affecting tourist arrivals and, for CPA, a revenue loss of 40 percent.

Senate panel: Fitial appointee to MVA board not a citizen

» Admin differs with Senate on eligibility of nominee

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's appointee to the Marianas Visitors Authority's board of directors is not a U.S. citizen or national and as such, the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations said it cannot act on this nomination.

But the Fitial administration said yesterday that Kwang Joong Kim, president of Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort, can be

appointed to serve on the MVA board of directors.

Senate EAGI Committee chair Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) told Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) in a June 23 letter that said Kim is not eligible because he is not a U.S. citizen or national as required by 1 CMC 2901.

"The Committee on EAGI does not have legal authority to consider Mr. Kim's nomination. Consistent with 4 CMC 2111, he is only eligible to serve as a board member of MVA if he

is one of the two non-U.S. citizens chosen by members of the MVA," Cruz said in a letter to Manglona.

Manglona, when asked for comment yesterday, said it may be an oversight on the part of the administration—a point rebutted by press secretary Angel Demapan.

"The administration consulted the enabling legislation that established the Marianas Visitors Authority and its board of directors. As opposed to the usual requirements im-

posed on members of other boards and commissions, such is not the case for MVA board members. Therefore, in considering Mr. KJ Kim to fill the void on the MVA board, the administration concluded that not only will he be an added asset to the board, but also that his nomination is in conformity with governing statutes," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Demapan also said the Fitial administration takes executive appointments very seriously and the governor and lieutenant governor make it a point to ensure that all governing laws for each nomination is adhered to.

Kim's appointment, if and when confirmed by the Senate, is for a four-year term expiring

on March 16, 2014.

Kim is a former general manager of Asiana Airlines and was previously appointed by the MVA board as honorary tourism ambassador for the CNMI.

Cruz said anyone appointed to a CNMI board must be a U.S. citizen or national.

But there is an exemption in the case of MVA, he said. Of the four who may be chosen by MVA members to serve on the board, only two such members may be non-U.S. citizen or national.

Cruz also said that on the advice of the Senate legal counsel, "Kim is not eligible to be appointed to the MVA board of directors by the governor."

4 CMC 2111 allows the governor to appoint five members who will serve on the MVA board, while the other four are chosen by MVA members. Of the four, only up to two may be non-U.S. citizens or nationals.

In other news, the Senate EAGI Committee will conduct a public hearing on the governor's reappointment of Francisco P. Rosario to serve on the Retirement Fund board this Wednesday at 9am in the Senate chamber.

At 1 pm on the same day, the committee will hold a public hearing on the governor's reappointment of Dr. Ahmad Al-Alou to serve on the Medical Profession Licensing Board.

Wiseman issues ruling in life insurance dispute

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman has ruled in favor of an insurance company and its general agent who are being sued by a woman on Rota on various claims related to a life insurance policy purchased in 1995 for her mother.

Wiseman ruled that plaintiff Adelia R. San Nicolas has failed to provide proof in her claims against NetCare Life and Health Insurance Co. and Moylan's Insurance Underwriters (Int'l) Inc. for breach of contract, fraud, unfair claims practices, and violation of the Consumer Protection Act.

San Nicolas, however, is entitled to the statutory rate of interest on the \$2,957.43 that was withheld from her from January 2010 until December 2010, Wiseman said.

According to court records, Occidental Life Insurance Company sold a universal life insurance policy to San Nicolas on her own life and on that of her mother, Maria M. Rase, then age 70, in March 1995 for a premium of \$80.17 per month.

In 1998, Occidental sold its life policies to NetCare.

By September 2006, all accumulated value on the policy had been used to keep the policy at the \$25,000 level. In October 2006, the \$80.17 could not keep the policy in force at \$25,000.

Thereafter, the accumulated value and cash value of the poli-

cy became negative. The policy had no positive value; the premium payments continued automatically at a level that would not support a \$25,000 policy.

In May 2009, a new manager for NetCare's life business, Jovette Alcantara, organized a computer generated mailing for all policies that had lapsed. The program generated a form letter addressed to Rase informing her that the "plan had lapsed effective Feb. 14, 2008." NetCare also gave Rase an option to reinstate the policy.

San Nicolas told Alcantara that the premium had been paid consistently but Alcantara said that the policy had indeed lapsed. NetCare offered three options to San Nicolas; (1) a partial refund of premiums; (2) reinstatement of the policy with evidence of insurability by payment of the earned premiums; or (3) a policy with a reduced benefit at \$80.17 per month.

San Nicolas rejected all three options and demanded that NetCare return all the premiums she had paid.

Rase died on Oct. 29, 2010, after San Nicolas filed the lawsuit.

In December 2010, NetCare subsequently refunded \$2,957.43 to San Nicolas, representing the premiums she had paid after the policy had lapsed. San Nicolas did not cash the check because she claimed her

policy did not lapse.

In his order, Wiseman said that Moylan's had no duty toward San Nicolas with respect to the administration of the policy. To keep the policy in force until Rase's death, San Nicolas would have had to pay approximately \$10,000 (inclusive of the money refunded), he said.

"There is no evidence that NetCare or Moylan's undertook any act to cause, intentionally or even negligently, the policy to lapse," he noted, adding that the plaintiff's breach of contract claim is uncertain.

He said San Nicolas testified that when she filed the lawsuit, the only damages she suffered were the costs of two visits to meet her lawyer, Ramon K. Quichocho. The expenses of the lawsuits are not consequential damages, he pointed out.

Additionally, Wiseman said, the plaintiff never filed a claim under the policy with proof of loss. The evidence shows, the judge said, that plaintiff was unwilling to pay the amount of money to keep the policy in force.

"NetCare did not keep her from paying that amount nor did it prevent her from having an extended payment plan," Wiseman said.

Attorney Richard W. Pierce represented defendants NetCare and Moylan's in the lawsuit. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Humanities Council seeking board members

The NMI Council for the Humanities is still accepting applications from individuals interested in serving on its board of directors.

The council is a non-profit organization affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Its mission is to foster awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people

of the Commonwealth.

Candidates for board membership should have a strong desire and ample time to promote the council's mission, programs, and activities.

Board service entails attending board and committee meetings, evaluating council programs and activities, reviewing community grant applications, developing new council programs and initiatives, raising funds, and recruiting community partners.

Those wishing to be con-

sidered for board membership are invited to submit a letter of interest and current resume to council board chair Tracy M. Guerrero on or before 4pm, Monday, July 11, 2011.

Letters of interest and resumes may be mailed to the council at P.O. Box 506437 or dropped at the council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai.

Contact the council's executive director, Scott Russell, at 235-4785 for more information on this matter. (*Humanities Council*)



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CNMI Broadband Mapping Village/Town Hall Meeting schedules

This is to remind the communities of Papago and San Vicente of today's scheduled CNMI broadband mapping village/townhall meeting starting at 6pm at the San Vicente Elementary School cafeteria.

The scene shifts to the Dandan Homestead Village tomorrow, June 29, when the CNMI broadband mapping village/townhall meeting will be held at the Dandan Elementary School cafeteria, beginning 6pm.

Refreshments will be served. For more information or if you need direction to any of

the meeting sites, email us at camachotj@yahoo.com or by calling 483-6200. (*PR*)

Gate change at Naval Hospital Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—Visitors to Naval Hospital Guam are advised that an interim gate will be used to access Naval Hospital grounds beginning at 5am on July 5. The current gate will be closed to ease the traffic flow connected to the ongoing construction of the new hospital. The new gate is 320 feet east of the original gate on Route 7 and will remain the main access gate to NHG until the

new hospital construction completion in 2014.

The Pass and ID office to obtain passes to access Naval Hospital grounds will remain in building 16 at the original Naval Hospital gate entrance.

Motorists are asked to observe all applicable signs and directions. Naval Base Guam and Naval Hospital appreciates the patient and visitor patience during the gate transition and ongoing construction activities.

The existing Naval Hospital will remain open during construction, but will be demolished once the new hospital is operational in the fall of 2014. (*PR*)

Empty oil drums turn into garbage bins

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thanks to a donation from both government and private companies, villages on Saipan will have more garbage bins that will help maintain and promote a trash-free island.

Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho, council staff, and Neighborhood Watch Task Force Precinct 4 block captain Sebastian Tajibmai received the garbage bins at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort last Friday.

Camacho, in an interview, said the garbage bins were actually oil drums donated by

the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Isla Petroleum & Energy, the Shell licensee on Saipan.

Camacho said these drums were cleaned, painted with "Join Neighborhood Watch," and transported by the Department of Corrections inmates.

Other businesses also donated the paints and supplies used on the drums.

At least 20 garbage cans have already been distributed to different Neighborhood Watch villages.

"It's considered as a community project and we're going to continue this as more donated drums keep coming," Camacho said.

Tajibmai said the donated garbage bins will help keep their precinct clean and litter-free. He "strongly encouraged" other businesses to help in this "excellent community project."

Frank Camacho, block captain of the Dandan Neighborhood Watch, said Friday that they received about two weeks ago eight garbage bins that they placed at each of the four school bus stops in their village.

"This project is meant for all villages but we have a limited number of cans," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "I hope and encourage other businesses to donate paints or drum cans for this worthy project."



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Dandan Neighborhood Village Watch block captain Sebastian Tajibmai, second left, is flanked by Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho and staff during the presentation of the donated garbage bins at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort last Friday.

UOG scientist wins USDA competitive funding

Dr. Gadi V.P. Reddy, a scientist at the Western Pacific Tropical Research Center, is concerned about the effect of toxic agricultural chemicals on the health of island residents and ecosystems. He has been educating farmers on the alternatives to pesticide use and has recently been awarded an \$188,000 grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Pest Management Alternatives Program.

Dr. Monte P. Johnson, National Program Leader with USDA-NIFA, congratulated Dr. Reddy on his award saying, "Competition was tough." Reddy's grant was one of six projects funded by PMAP in this grant cycle.

The grant, titled *Development, Implementation and Economic Evaluation of Sustainable Mite and Fruit Borer Management practices on Tomato*, will focus on developing an ecologically sound and cost effective Integrated Pest Management program for tomato farmers in the region.

"The majority of growers in this region use dicofol, carbaryl, malathion, and other insecticides for the control of spider and broad mites and caterpillar pests on tomato. Usually as many as 10-15 insecticidal applications are applied each cropping period, which is not only expensive in terms of financial outlay but is also associated with ecological and toxicological hazards," said Reddy.

This funding will allow Reddy to conduct studies that will implement the use of predatory insects, petroleum spray oils, neem oil, microbial pest control agents, and modern miticides, thereby reducing the reliance on toxic pesticides to control insect pests.

Without taking appropriate action to gain effective control,



Dr. Reddy showing fruit borer damage on tomatoes.

the mites and caterpillar pests are likely to cause a huge or complete loss of tomato production in Guam and other Micronesian Islands.

"There has been very little research carried out targeting the control of mites and caterpillar pests on tomato in the Pacific region. The results of this study will be of value to local farmers and consumers and fill a void in the literature," says Reddy.

This study will be carried out at the University of Guam's Agricultural Experiment Stations in Yigo and Inarajan.

A training program will be put together for the purpose of training farmers and other stakeholders on the use of IPM practices. Reddy and his team will work with extension agents to disseminate the information and to conduct farmers' field schools, and afterward, follow up with the farmers to see if they have implemented IPM practices in

their fields.

Reddy also expects that this technology will be widely transferred within the Pacific Islands and other parts of the tropical world.

The grant allows Reddy to hire a postdoctoral research associate and a research assistant to conduct the field experiments and collect the data. The university community will also benefit from this grant, though indirect

costs that Reddy hopes will be used by UOG to consider implementing an on-campus research database.

USDA funding to WPTRC researchers gives Guam residents more opportunities to have healthier, locally grown produce at reasonable prices. For more information on IPM practices in the region contact Reddy at 735-2142 or email reddy@ugam.uog.edu. (UOG)



Fruit borer damage on tomatoes.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 28, 1999

Govt. suspends pay hikes, promotions

The Office of the Governor has suspended all pay increases due to permanent or temporary promotions, acting or detail assignment, reallocation or reclassification of position, step increases and other training programs because of the current austerity measures. In a memorandum to all department and activity heads issued by Jose I Deleon Guerrero, special assistant for administration, he said the Civil Service Commission has put into effect regulations suspending all salary increases. Guerrero asked all government officials to adhere strictly to the regulations since none of the above will be considered regardless of sources of funding.

DYS to introduce Parents Anonymous

The Division of Youth Services will expand its parent education program with the formation of the first parent support group in the CNMI. According to Connie Cabrera of DYS, the first Parents Anonymous workshop in the CNMI is scheduled for September which is aimed at training a group of parents for volunteer work. With the holding of its first workshop on Saipan, DYS hopes to eventually replicate the success of this parents association in the CNMI which started in 1970 in the mainland. "It will be held from September 28 to 30 and interested parties can call our office for early registration," she said. The DYS started its Common Sense Parenting Workshop in 1997 to help promote positive behavior among families and offers alternative ways to address domestic problems.

June 28, 2000

Business leaders lauds passage of omnibus bill

Business leaders yesterday commended the Senate for the passage of Business Reform and Labor Act despite major amendments which did not include the repeal of the three-year stay limit and the Fair Compensation Act. After marathon meetings between the Senate Committee Resources and Programs and representatives from the business sector, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Lynn Knight said she now understands why there is a need to defer the scrapping of the three-year residency limit for nonresident workers. She said she agrees with the Senate to wait for the outcome of the proposed legislation extending federal immigration laws to the Northern Marianas. U.S. Senate Bill 1052, drafted by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, allows a business to petition a long-term nonresident for employment-based immigrant visa subject to several conditions, such as being employed in the same company for five consecutive years prior to filing of the application.

Transport facilities in Northern Islands sought

Northern Islands Mayor Joseph T. Ogumoro is soliciting the assistance of the Commonwealth Ports Authority in identifying the most viable locations on the four islands north of Saipan that will house the air and sea transport facilities in the area. This is in line with efforts to assist displaced residents of the Northern Islands to return and resettle in Anatahan, Alamagan, Pagan and Agrigan. According to Mr. Ogumoro, there is a need to construct basic air and sea port facilities, as well as other infrastructure projects, in the Northern Islands to clear the road for its economic growth.

June 28, 2001

USDA blows horn over rising delinquency rate

The US Department of Agriculture yesterday sought the assistance of local congressmen in the recovery of delinquent mortgage payments from retired government workers. USDA Rural Development Manager Joseph Diego and Farmers' Home Program representatives Steve Cruz and Howard Macaranas met with legislators to discuss the increasing mortgage delinquency rate in the Commonwealth. In a briefing held at the House of Representatives, the three USDA officials discussed the current status of the Farmers' Home Program and other related federal programs that can be made available to Northern Marianas residents.

DYS turns youths' attention away from illegal activities

The Division of Youth Services is launching a special summer program designed to turn aside the attention of the islands' youngsters from illegal activities. DYS Juvenile Probation Supervisor Syl S. Ada Jr. said the Summer Youth Sports and Day Camp was designed to provide the Commonwealth's youths alternative activities, especially during school break.

Can You Identify?

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the Saipan Tribune, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.

If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.

Only one of the individuals in last week's photo was identified: Margarita Flores, at left. Identified by Chong Torres.

Island Snapshots



SWEARING IN Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, third from right, and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, right, pose for a group photo after the governor swore into office Public Safety Commissioner Ray Mafnas, fourth from right, and Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, second from right, on June 14 on Capital Hill. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



PARK CLEANUP Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan leads executives in cleaning up the Susupe Regional Beach Park in preparation for the launch of the children's playground on Friday. CLARISSA V. DAVID



Executives of Tan Holdings take a break from cleaning and painting the Susupe Regional Beach Park grounds on June 24. CLARISSA V. DAVID



Hopwood Junior High School teacher Sharleen Crisostimo, standing second left, is flanked by members of Teen Talk, a youth organization under the Public School System Youth Development Program, who all volunteered in Tan Holdings' rehabilitation efforts for the Susupe Regional Beach Park. CLARISSA V. DAVID



Male members of the youth organization Teen Talk try out the seesaw at the children's playground of the Susupe Beach Regional Park. CLARISSA V. DAVID

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Yes to nuclear power only if safety comes first

When housing and banking regulators weren't looking, Wall Street ran wild with deals that tossed the nation's economy into a tailspin.

When energy regulators got too cozy with the drilling industry, oil ended up spewing through the Gulf of Mexico from the explosion of the BP Deepwater Horizon rig.

Now troubling signs have emerged that this pattern could be repeating itself, this time in the nuclear power industry.

According to an extensive Associated Press investigation, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is routinely keeping aging reactors within safety standards by weakening or ignoring the rules. That's the equivalent of a teacher dropping grade requirements to keep students from flunking or a doctor ignoring troubling test results and declaring a patient healthy.

This alarming, reckless and reprehensible behavior by the NRC places expediency above nuclear safety, the commission's most important responsibility. In the interest of keeping kilowatts cranking, regulators are pursuing this unwise path of least resistance.

The AP investigation found that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has twice weakened the safety standard for acceptable radiation damage to reactor vessels, a critical gauge that helps predict when parts might become dangerously brittle and prone to failure.

Many of the East Coast plants have violated or come close to violating the standard but received a reprieve when the commission chose to adopt a looser standard. (The reactors in question are older ones.)

Confronted by this investigation, the commission insists that safety isn't being compromised. Even if no immediate danger exists, the downward inspection spiral is a near-certain path to an accident. In addition to the threats to communities near the facilities, the commission's lax attitude could undermine credibility and development of additional nuclear energy.

The nation needs more nuclear power plants. Nuclear energy is a cleaner source than coal to produce electricity and is more reliable than wind and solar. Until recently, more Americans, including many environmental groups, had begun to look favorably on it.

But after Japan's nuclear disaster, public opinion in the United States is at a shaky juncture. Unless regulators hold the power industry to the highest safety standards and avoid sleight-of-hand oversight, Americans again—and with good reason—will turn against nuclear energy. After the Three Mile Island accident, nuclear plant construction in this country ground to a halt for about three decades, and our nation continues to pay the price for its unhealthy dependence on dirtier energy sources.

The U.S. needs nuclear energy, but it also needs regulators who do their job and put safety first.

(c) 2011, The Dallas Morning News



Obama's popular in Europe, where it doesn't count

In a deservedly obscure village among the green hills and dairy farms of Ireland's midlands stands a pub that has been turned into a shrine to Barack Obama. In the back room of Ollie Hayes' saloon, a large and markedly unattractive fake-bronze bust of the president sits on a pedestal flanked by beer glasses; over the fireplace there's a portrait of the great man hoisting a pint of Guinness, and other Obama memorabilia covers the walls.

Moneygall is the village to which Obama aides managed to trace the president's Irish ancestry, and Ollie's is the pub the president visited a month ago to meet his eighth cousins and embrace his Celtic heritage.

That connection has produced a modest flow of tourists seeking out the spot where Obama found his Hibernian roots. "We've had people coming at all hours," the barman told me last week. But they've been mostly Irish tourists, not Americans. "You're used to him, perhaps," he said. "We're not."

Europe is still in love with Barack Obama. It's not only the Irish, who are always ready to be wooed by any American president with a connection to their island. Even the more reserved British seemed ecstatic when Obama visited London last month, swarming into the streets to watch his motorcade pass.

When Obama gave a pretty good speech to the House of Commons touching on the usual themes of shared values, the British swooned. The Times of London, an ordinarily conservative newspaper owned by Fox News czar Rupert Murdoch, compared Obama's oratorical skills to those of Winston Churchill, Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy.

Polls show much the same phenomenon across the English Channel in Germany and France. Our president can't keep his job approval rating above 50% at home, but on the Continent he's admired and esteemed. One poll last year found that 78% of Europeans approved of Obama's leadership, a figure far outstripping what the president scored at home.

Across the pond, Obama's biography still impresses people as a demonstration of the meritocracy at the heart of the American dream, something not all European countries yet have—at least, not to the same extent. Obama's speech at Westminster played on this explicitly, noting that the Western ideal of equality had made it possible for "the grandson of a Kenyan who served as a cook in the British army to stand before you as president of the United States."

In Europe, Obama also benefits from the fact that many voters aren't happy with their own leaders and are glad to compare them to someone else. Europe is in a full-blown economic crisis, and it's not clear that any politician is on top of it. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and British Prime Minister David Cameron have all seen their poll ratings slump. (Don't even

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles TimesDoyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him e-mail at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.

mention Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who's on trial for—among other things—allegedly paying underage prostitutes.)

And many Europeans like Obama's relatively diffident brand of U.S. leadership: the fact that he asks them for cooperation and consultation, not just allegiance. In the war in Libya, for example, "he hasn't insisted on the United States being in front," an Italian businessman told me approvingly. Americans may be uncomfortable with the idea of "leading from behind," but Europeans are still charmed by the fact that Obama isn't George W. Bush.

The problem for Obama, of course, is that none of that matters where it counts: with the American electorate that will decide on his reelection next year. Americans don't much care that our president is more charismatic than the German chancellor, or that our economy is marginally less shaky than Europe's.

In a sense, Obama is a victim of his own success as a path breaker. His biography still wows them in London, but we're no longer enthralled by it here. The story of the skinny young politician with a funny name, half-Kansan and half-Kenyan, is old news. But that's also a reflection of progress.

A Gallup poll this month found that only 5 percent of American voters acknowledge qualms about an African American as president, far lower than the 22 percent who said they could not vote for a Mormon. That 5 percent may be artificially low, of course, because poll respondents know that racism is socially unacceptable. But it's worth remembering that Obama won more white votes in 2008 than John F. Kerry did in 2004.

In 2012, Obama's biography and his race will be even less a factor than they were in 2008. He won't be running as an African American or an Irish American or even a hybrid American; he'll be running as an incumbent with a record. His popularity in Europe won't help; nor will his newfound roots in Moneygall. Only an economic recovery will.

The 2012 election is likely to be as post-racial an election as America can produce. Ironically, that may not be entirely good news for Barack Obama.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

An assessment of your business

The BizGrowth Symposium was held last week and I feel that the Wednesday half-day session was a success for the farmers who attended. NMC-CREES offered three training sessions and Tony Pellegrino shared his Cargo Air Bridge program with the group. Mr. Pellegrino also talked about the progress of the slaughterhouse he has been developing.

I feel the Air Bridge will spur more farm activity by lowering the cost of shipping to Guam. In essence, this could open the doors for farmers to sell all the produce they can grow that meet quality standards. In fact, I'll go so far as to say that with lowered shipping costs, agriculture may emerge as the second most sustainable economic leg that the CNMI has to stand on. It is also an area that we have more control over than other areas of economic development.

I want to thank all the individuals, agencies, and companies that supported the BizGrowth Challenge and showed a desire to improve the economy. Individuals who attended the Thursday symposium received a lot of great information from people who are experts in their field. In the afternoon sessions Geri Willis shared her knowledge on how to find grants and apply for them, Eric Plinske shared bookkeeping methods, Frank Gibson had a lot of information to assess your human resource needs, Janel Villegas presented numerous examples on how to motivate your workforce, and Perry Conner shared his expertise on personal financial management. Ralph Yumul and Greg Calvo were on hand to answer questions about how to start a business and apply for a loan through CDA, and Dave Attao from NMC-COMPASS had some great information to improve your workforce through training.

I asked all of the individuals who attended to complete an assessment of their business in the six strategic dimensions that are part of every business. These dimensions are centered on a seventh area called "customer focus," which is what every aspect of your business should focus on to continue to grow.

Below are the seven statements that individuals were asked to rate their business/agency. I have reproduced it below so you can assess your organization to see your score. Ask yourself what result or outcome do you most want your organization to realize in the near future as you read each statement? Rate yourself on the following seven questions on scale from 1 to 5 that best describes your level of agreement: 1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=neutral, 4=agree, 5=strongly agree.

1. You have a customer-focused organization that strives to exceed the needs of the customer.
2. You have a cultural environment that encourages new and better ideas to help grow your business.
3. Your organization profitably creates more customers and then nurtures them to become referral-giving advocates who grow your business.
4. Your company trains and retains skilled staff who are motivated to achieve goals that grow your business.
5. Your business establishes and implements standards and systems to efficiently operate and effectively achieve results that will grow your business.
6. You create and maintain strong working relationships with the key stakeholders who contribute to the growth of your business.

At the onset of the recession, Canada was the country that relied least on debt financing, with total debt equaling 233 percent of GDP. During the recession, Canada experienced the smallest decline in GDP, with a 3.4 percent drop in output.

Japan relied most heavily on debt, and experienced the greatest decline in output. Japan's total domestic debt was 572 percent of GDP, nearly two-and-a-half times greater than Canada's. Its decline in output—fully 10 percent—was three times greater than Canada's.

Debt and decline numbers for the United States and Europe are in line with this pattern, although the European data do not fully reflect the experience of the individual countries. Total domestic debt in the United States stood at 329 percent of GDP when the recession began; U.S. economic output fell 4.1 percent during the recession. Eurozone debt amounted to 388 percent of GDP; economic output in Europe declined 5.2 percent.

Within the Eurozone, Greece and Ireland both held much larger debt than other countries and experienced a much larger output drop. Unlike their neighbors, they still have not seen a recovery. Greece's economy, in fact, teeters on insolvency.

As far as financial crises go, the data indicate that it doesn't really matter who borrows the money. What matters is how much is borrowed. It does not matter if the debt is government debt, business debt or household debt.

While Japan has the highest central government debt as a percent of GDP, the frugal Japanese tend to buy up most of their own debt with their savings. This reduces their dependence on foreign inves-

By **RIK VILLEGAS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is the creator of the BizGrowth Challenge that assists businesses to achieve sustainable growth. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.



7. Your organization increases revenues, decreases costs, and effectively manages resources to provide greater opportunities to grow your business.

So how does your organization rank in each of the strategic dimensions that affect every business? If you scored 31 or more points, then your company should be doing great. You may be experiencing some slow periods, but you are able to recover quickly. A score between 27 to 30 means your company is doing okay, but you should start to focus on your weaker dimensions to bring the score up. If your score is from 22 to 26 then you should quickly identify your areas of improvement and develop a plan to improve those dimensions that might hinder sustainable growth. A score of 21 or less means you are in dire need to make improvements in most, if not all of your dimensions. You must implement a turnaround strategy before it's too late.

For the next few weeks, I will take one topic statement and give greater details on how your business can improve in that strategic dimension. This may be something that you want to share with your staff so they can contribute ideas that will help improve in each specific dimension.

tors, and hence Japan's gross external debt is low. Japan's higher saving rate did not appear to reduce the impact of the financial crisis, however. Total debt seems to have been the driving factor.

Leverage is leverage, and leverage always brings with it increased risk. Every investor knows that leveraging increases profits when markets rise, but it also increases losses when markets fall. If leveraging is treacherous ground for an individual investor, imagine the implications for an entire economy.

Before the recent crisis, when real estate and other asset prices were rising, debt loads were less problematic. When asset prices began to fall, high debt loads became destructive. The financial crisis ensued. Recession followed.

All this implies that an economy can be made less susceptible to the devastating effects of a financial crisis if the reliance on debt financing is kept at a reasonable level.

At the outset of the financial crisis, debt levels in the United States were relatively low. While the effects of the recession have been devastating, and continue, our experience was less severe than Europe and Japan.

We survived the Great Recession by the skin of our teeth. But with government deficits spinning out of control, what about next time?

Polina Vlasenko is a research fellow at the American Institute for Economic Research, 250 Division Street, Great Barrington, Mass. 01230; website: www.aier.org.

'Til debt do us part

By **POLINA VLASENKO**

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH

The Great Recession of 2007-2009 was worldwide, but its severity varied from country to country.

We recently examined the performance of 19 industrial countries during the recession: the United States, Japan, Canada and the 16 countries of the Eurozone, which includes Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

What we found was interesting.

First, we found that that virtually the entire decrease in U.S. gross domestic product came from a decrease in debt-sensitive expenditures, such as business investment, housing and consumer durable goods (which includes things like cars and appliances). Second, we found that those countries with the highest levels of debt at the start of the recession suffered deeper and longer declines than those with lower debt levels.

Debt, therefore—the subject of much conversation in Washington these days—is clearly more than an academic concern.

By "debt" we are not referring to government debt alone. We are looking at the term broadly, referring to the total gross value of all debt carried by households, businesses and government.

NZ delegation gives thanks

It all seems like a distant memory—the warmth of the sun in the tropical northern part of the Pacific as we the Aotearoa/New Zealand Delegation traveled and explored the beautiful island of Saipan. Welcomed like kings and queens of the South Pacific we were honored to be invited to attend and perform at the 30th Flame Tree Arts Festival, lasting connections made through the sharing of stories and histories, hearts interwoven through our collective lineage shared by being children of the Pacific.

It was with heavy hearts that we left Saipan International Airport after being hosted by the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture bound for Aotearoa/New Zealand. It was not only the realization that we were heading back to the middle of our winter season but realizing that we were leaving the warmth of the people of Saipan and the wider Mariana islands. We thank all the people who helped make our inaugural pilgrimage to the Flame Tree Arts

Festival so memorable and are reluctant to mention any names in fear of missing someone out but you all know who you are.

As a group we reflected on what was a very memorable festival. We were all overwhelmed by the generosity and hospitality of all the people of Saipan and the Mariana islands, we were grateful for the wealth of experiences shared with us and look forward to the day where we can repay a snippet of the aroha (love) shown us. We were overwhelmed with the intimate setting of the festival shaded by the protective trees but surrounded by the beauty, which are the waterways of Saipan. The setting encapsulated the aroha and aspirations of the people within from the stallholders with their giant smiles, beautiful arts and crafts, and not to forget all the delicacies that were on offer to eat. Too, all the performers exhibiting their pride and passion for their art form, too the committee members working like busy bees making sure it all fell

associated with unsustainable growth and the very real limits of the Earth's finite resources.

If we hope for our grandchildren to live a quality life as we do, we must begin to seriously address the need to stabilize population growth as soon as possible through education, the empowerment of women, and universal access to family planning. Instead of quantity of life we should strive for quality of life not just for us humans, but for all life on this wonderful planet we call home.

Randy A. Harper
San Vicente, Saipan

into place and worked like a well-oiled machine.

We the Aotearoa/New Zealand delegation see this as the beginning of a beautiful relationship between us and the Flame Tree Arts Festival and the peoples of Saipan, we look forward to keeping in touch with all our brothers and sisters via email and Facebook and look forward to welcoming you all to Aotearoa/New Zealand in the future.

Hamiora Werahiko

*Director, Haarmz Capacity Building
Sydney, Australia*

Why not return to the Stone Age?

This letter concerns Mr. Frank Stewart's recent comments about the attempts of the Legislature to modify our overly restrictive and oppressive zoning law and making the CNMI to return to the Stone Age. Granted, with all the problems and evils of the modern world descending upon all of us island residents in a globally depressing manner, maybe a return to the Stone Age might do all of us a bit of good to return to a simpler and less zoned-out world. Frankly, Frank, I believe in the individual freedoms of people to make proper choices in the use of their land that also respects the rights of their neighbors.

Rep. Stanley T. McGinnis Torres
Capital Hill, Saipan






Sustainable life

I see a lot of news about the many environmental problems and challenges facing us in the 21st century, including pollution, climate change, and the decline and disappearance of many plants and animals. But rarely do I hear anyone mention the underlying cause of these problems: the demands of nearly 7 billion people on our planet. Too often, growth and increasing consumption are automatically treated as a good thing, no matter what the consequences are. This narrow view ignores the devastating costs

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲84 ▼76
Palau	Cloudy	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲84 ▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼77

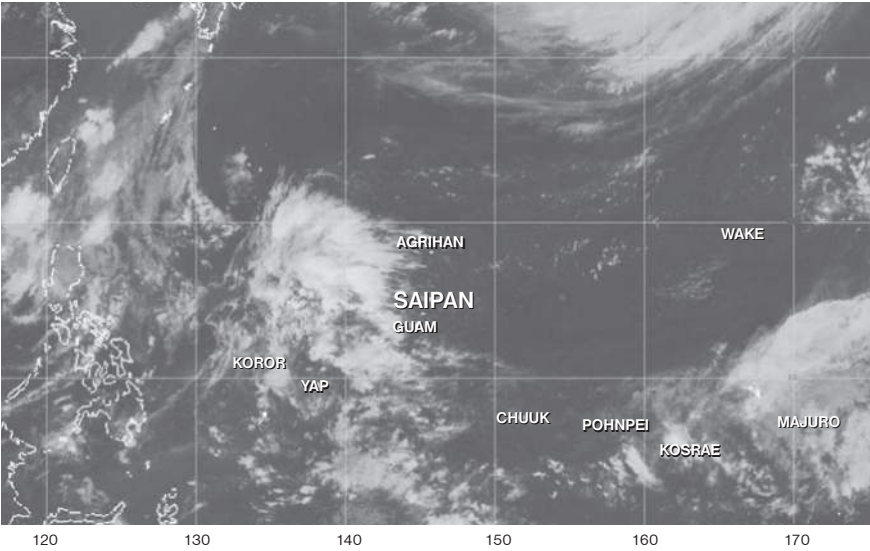
Around The Globe

Auckland	Thundershowers	▲54 ▼50
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲92 ▼69
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼81
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼74
London	Rain	▲75 ▼55
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲78 ▼61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲81 ▼77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲61 ▼42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼80
New York	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼70
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼75
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▼59
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲77 ▼70
Rome	Sunny	▲89 ▼69
Salem	Rain	▲70 ▼60
San Francisco	Showers	▲60 ▼55
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲78 ▼69
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲84 ▼75
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼71

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:09 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:51 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.1 Feet
8:04 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
12:52 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level trough extends north-northeastward from 6N130E through an upper-level low centered northwest of Koror near 12N132E to another upper-level low centered near 22N134E. Divergent winds near and east of the trough are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of Koror and Yap and west of the Marianas between 9N and 21N from 133E to 144E. A near-equatorial trough meanders east-southeastward from 6N130E through weak circulations centered just southwest of Koror at 6N134E and southwest of Chuuk at 2N150E to end at EQ155E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present southeast of Koror and Yap, or south of a line from 7N140E to 1N150E. A surface trough extends northeastward from 3N156E to 9N161E. Scattered showers are found southeast of Pohnpei, or east of the trough axis within 100 miles of a line from 2N157E to 9N164E. Converging trade winds are teaming up with divergent upper-level winds to cause scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands within 300 miles of a line from 11N170E to 2N176E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:48 AM	4:03 PM
Wednesday	3:37 AM	4:57 PM
Thursday	4:29 AM	5:51 PM
Friday	5:25 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	7:35 PM

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PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6	MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
				OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM	C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6				via ICN
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
				OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
				OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Home Depot accused of violating Buy American Act

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The photograph on Home Depot's website shows a line of smiling soldiers unloading a truck stacked with power tools and other company wares.

The company says this shows "federal dollars go farther at The Home Depot." San Francisco Attorney Paul Scott says the photo also shows the company providing Chinese-made products in violation of the Buy American Act, and the U.S. Department of Justice is investigating.

A federal judge in April refused Home Depot Inc.'s bid to toss a whistleblower lawsuit Scott and other attorneys filed against the Atlanta-based company. Now the country's largest home improvement retailer is the latest company accused of running afoul of the Buy American Act, a 1933 law aimed at protecting U.S. jobs. The law requires that all materials used in construction of public projects originate in the United States or "designated countries."

Like most protectionist trade provisions, the Buy American Act has its supporters and detractors.

Proponents support the act as a way to boost the economy and preserve U.S. jobs. Critics complain the law limits the government's ability to make the best purchase on price and quality. Further, they argue that complying with the letter of the law is difficult, given the

many exemptions and the reality that the component parts of many products originate in multiple countries. In addition, the law's critics say it's especially difficult for large companies such as Home Depot that carry thousands of products to ensure it follows the law with every government transaction.

The law has been through many revisions, and trade agreements with Canada, Israel and several other countries allow for use of material made in those countries. In the decades after its enactment, the law was little used. But with the explosion of international trade a number of companies have been accused of violating the Buy American Act over the last several years.

Earlier this year, the national hardware distributor Fastenal Co. agreed to pay \$6.25 million to resolve DOJ claims made after a government audit found among other things that it violated its contract with the General Services Administration by providing Chinese-made goods.

Fastenal said in a statement that it settled because "we continue to believe that we complied with our obligation under the GSA contract in all material respects. However, we felt a continuation of our dispute with the DOJ and GSA was not the best use of our resources."

In the last six years, Staples Inc., Office Depot Inc. and OfficeMax Inc. have paid a combined \$22 mil-

lion to settle government claims they violated the act. In 2008, the Department of Justice announced that W.W. Grainger Inc. agreed to pay \$6 million to settle claims the company overcharged the government and provided it with Chinese and Taiwanese products in violation of the Buy American Act.

At issue in the Home Depot case are GSA "schedule" contracts. Those contracts authorize any government agency to purchase tens of thousands of products from the company's website.

The lawsuit alleges that up to half of those products are made in China and other non-designated countries. The lawsuit was filed by two employees of another government contractor in 2008 that claimed their employer, the Actus Lend Lease Co., supplied noncompliant material in several military housing projects.

Before Actus was dropped from the case this year after paying an undisclosed amount of money to settle, lawyers discovered allegations that one of its corporate partners—Home Depot—was also violating the law.

The two Actus employees initially filed the so-called whistleblower lawsuit under seal, as all such claims on behalf of the government are filed. That gives the DOJ a chance to investigate the claims and decide if it wants to take over the lawsuit, which seeks to recover damages on behalf of the government.

The new supervisor

Question: I was just recently promoted and now I supervise my friends that I was working alongside of just a few days ago. I don't want to lose my friends, but I want to do my job well. What should I do?

Congratulations on your promotion! I imagine that you have been working and hoping for this move upward for some time. I also imagine, assuming that your organization rewards merit, that you obtained your promotion based upon superior performance, skills and capabilities. Congratulations again.

However, from your question I can see that you recognize that your change in status brings, along with, hopefully, a raise and improved benefits and status, some potential problems. Relax, it will all work out. Certainly, there will be some changes in relationships, but it doesn't mean that you have to give up your friends. Recognize, however, that you will now also be associating more often with the other supervisors and managers at work and possibly in your after-hours social life. Your relationship with your former supervisors and managers will also change.

Promotions from within have advantages over promotions from outside—and of course some disadvantages. Your concern with managing friends, who now must also be viewed as employees, is one of the disadvantages that a supervisor brought in from the outside doesn't have to face. So, let's look at the advantages and how those will affect your new relationship with former co-workers.

First off, they know you and, if you are worried about losing them as friends, they probably are your friends and like and appreciate you. Most of them will be happy for you in your promotion. A couple may feel that they should have been selected and you will have to deal carefully with that. In your favor, knowing you makes it easier for them to adjust to a new supervisor. You're "the devil they know." Someone new from the outside is an unknown factor who may or may not work effectively with them. It also provides them with an example of success and encourages them to know that the same opportunity could be there for them. Plus, if they are your friends, they will respect your new position and do their best to help you succeed.

Have a meeting. State the obvious, that you're new at the supervisory job, and let them know that you will appreciate their support, cooperation, and assistance. Also, let them know that you will be happy to talk with any one that is uncomfortable with the new relationship. Leave them with the understanding that you intend to do your job as a supervisor, both accomplishing work requirements, but also looking out for them.

You're the boss now, but don't jump right in and make a lot of changes unless that was what you were specifically promoted to do. In most cases you would look around first. As an employee, you might have noted things that you thought needed to be changed. Now look at those things again from a supervisory and company perspective. If you still feel the change is needed, talk with your employees for their perspective and then with upper management, if needed.

As the supervisor, you are now in charge and responsible for the performance of your unit. If an employee has performance difficulties or a conduct problem, you will have to address the matter with the employee and

HR MATTERS

By FRANK GIBSON

Special to the
Saipan Tribune



Frank L. Gibson, SPHR, GPHR, owner of HR Support, CNMI, has been a resident of the CNMI for more than 14 years. One of the founding members of the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, he has worked both as a line-manager of human resources and in the Human Resource Office.

determine what has to be done about it. Follow the rule: praise in public, but criticize in private. You don't have to show your authority. Your employees know. Remember the bad examples you saw as an employee and avoid doing the same. If discipline becomes necessary, follow the rules. Even friends understand that they are responsible for the consequences of their actions.

Separate work from personal. We live in a close community. Sometimes our co-workers, subordinates, or bosses, are family. Don't let work interfere with friendship and family relations, and don't let friendship and family relationships interfere with work. Don't make work decisions in a social environment and keep work time for work. Be careful about being asked to help your employees make personal decisions. Easily said, harder to do, you say. I agree, but if you look around you see it being done by others who were promoted the same as you were.

Treat your employees with respect and fairness. Don't show favoritism for your former close friends and don't use your authority inappropriately against those with whom you might not have been friendly. They are all your employees equally now and you must supervise them equitably, view them and work with them as your team, and evaluate each based upon performance. Additionally, as a supervisor, you are an officer of the company and the company could be liable for any acts of inappropriate behavior or unlawful discrimination on your part.

Set a positive and ethical leadership example for your employees. Make work decisions based upon work rules and requirements, not upon personal relationships. If you don't, you will fail as a supervisor and, in all probability, your company will have to replace you. You have help. There are usually company rules, regulations, and standards that must be kept. Your employees know this and will expect you to follow them and require them to do so, too. Your manager and the human resource office are there to help you. Ask to attend supervisory management training and any programs that might help you with your job. Get a good management book; go online and research the topic; take management courses at the college. You have many options in your future to help you develop your management skills.

Management is not easy under any circumstances. Some very capable employees turn down promotions rather than deal with the issues that you are facing. Still, look around—many friends and family members that you respect have gone through the same struggle that you are going through now, as they have progressed in life and work. Again, congratulations on your promotion. May you have many more.



In this Feb. 22, 2010 file photo, shoppers walk through the aisles at the Home Depot store in Williston, Vt. Home Depot is the latest federal contractor accused of violating the Buy American Act with Chinese-made goods.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China eyes Canada oil, US's energy nest egg

CALGARY, Alberta (AP)—In the northern reaches of Alberta lies a vast reserve of oil that the U.S. views as a pillar of its future energy needs. China, with a growing appetite for oil that may one day surpass that of the U.S., is ready to spend the dollars for a big piece of it. The oil sands of this Canadian province are so big that they will be able to serve both of the world's largest economies as production expands in the coming years. But that will mean building at least two pipelines, one south to the Texas Gulf Coast and another west toward the Pacific, and that in turn means fresh environmental battles on top of those already raging over the costly and energy-intensive method of extracting oil from sand.

Philip Morris fights Australian packaging rules

SYDNEY (AP)—Tobacco giant Philip Morris launched legal action on Monday against the Australian government over the country's plans to strip company logos from cigarette packages and replace them with grisly images of cancerous mouths, sickly children and bulging, blinded eyes. The government believes the new rules will make the packages less attractive to smokers and turn Australia into the world's toughest country on tobacco advertising. Several outraged cigarette makers have threatened lawsuits, arguing the move illegally diminishes the value of their trademarks. Philip Morris is the first of those companies to file a claim for compensation.

Nation

Truck company in Nev. train wreck had citations

SPARKS, Nev. (AP)—A Nevada trucking company under scrutiny for a fiery crash with an Amtrak train that left at least six dead has been cited repeatedly by state authorities for crashes, unsafe driving and operating a truck with tires so bald the vehicle had to be taken off the road.

A man working for John Davis Trucking Co., of Battle Mountain, Nev., drove a truck through crossing gates and into two of the train's double-decker cars Friday, killing him and five people on the train.

Federal records reviewed by The Associated Press on Sunday showed the state Department of Public Safety cited the company for two crashes in the last two years, including one in February 2010 that injured a person in Washoe County.

In a January inspection, authorities found tires on one company tractor-trailer so bald they deemed the rig an imminent hazard to public safety.

Meanwhile, Nevada Highway Patrol Trooper Chuck Allen said Churchill County coroner officials were sifting through the rubble of the rail cars gutted by

the fire. He said they have asked at least one forensic anthropologist to assist them.

"I think it was so hot that they want to make sure they are not missing anything," Allen told the AP. "They want to figure out if there are any more bodies and if so, how many. They want to rule out the possibility that, yes there are more, or that no, there are not."

Investigators also looked for clues as to why the truck driver plowed through the railroad crossing.

"Not necessarily just drugs or alcohol, but fatigue, driver inattention," Allen said. "Did he have a (citizen band radio)? Was he talking to his buddies behind him? If so, was he looking in the side-view mirror and not looking at the road ahead? I don't think we'll ever know for sure."

It's expected to take up to a year to pinpoint the cause of the crash.

National Transportation Safety Board member Earl Weener said that the flashing lights at the crossing, which are set to blink for 25 seconds before a train approaches, would have been vis-



Firefighters look at the wreckage of an Amtrak passenger car Friday June 24, 2011 near US 95 north of Fallon, Nev. AP

ible from a half-mile away if a motorist was driving at the highway's 70-mph speed limit.

The investigation has not yet revealed how fast the driver, who was approaching the crossing from the south, might have

been going, Weener said.

Two other truck drivers and the train's engineer watched helplessly as the semitrailer skidded the length of a football field before it smashed through the crossing gates and into the train.

The drivers were part of a three-truck convoy that saw the gates come down and the warning lights go off as the California Zephyr approached, Weener said.

They stopped, but the driver

of the big rig in the lead did not, he said.

The train's engineer saw the truck approaching the crossing and realized the collision was inevitable, he said. The engineer slammed on the emergency brakes, but the train, which was going about 78 mph in an 80-mph zone, traveled a half-mile more before it finally stopped, Weener said.

The engineer watched the truck smash into two of the train's 10 cars through the rearview mirror.

"He recalled the event clearly. He saw the truck approaching the train," Weener said late Saturday. "At some point, he knew the impact was imminent. He, in fact, watched the collision in a rearview mirror. He was hoping the train was not going to derail."

Amtrak spokeswoman Vernae Graham told the AP that five passengers remained unaccounted for by Sunday. A day earlier, officials said more than two dozen people were being sought.

Weener has said some passengers may have gotten off the train before the crash or walked away from the scene without checking with officials.

As water ebbs in Minot, thoughts of recovery

MINOT, N.D. (AP)—The Souris River began a long, slow retreat in Minot on Sunday, leaving behind an arduous rebuilding job for more than 4,000 homeowners and hundreds of business operators, most of whom lack insurance to pay for it.

Because they don't have coverage, federal assistance could amount to as little as a few thousand dollars apiece. Loan and grant programs will provide some help, as will an emergency relief fund just being set up.

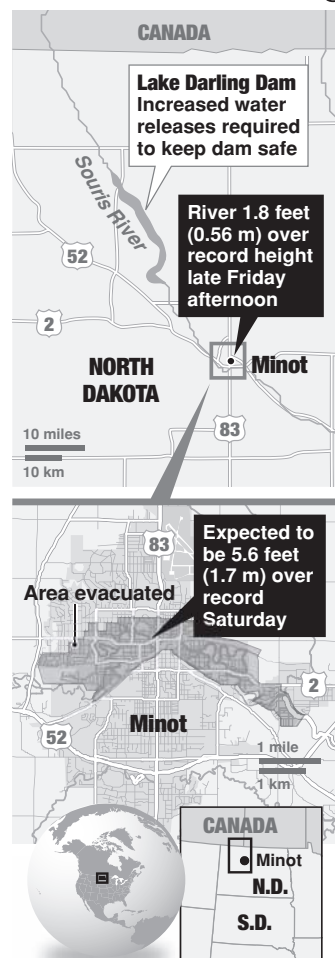
Still, there was at least one ray of hope: State lawmakers might be able to lend a hand, thanks in large part to North Dakota's oil boom, which generates \$1 billion a year in tax money and has helped shield the state from the worst of the recession.

Few people in Minot carried flood insurance—only 375 homes in the flooded areas, said John Ashton, a spokesman for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Mike and Jodi Picard checked with neighbors when moving into their house less than two years ago and found that just one had flood insurance. The river was a quarter-mile away, and the prevailing opinion was that "we were not in a floodplain anymore" after a 1969 flood led to construction of levees and straightening of the river channel.

"Now you really kick yourself for not having it," said Jodi Picard.

The Souris topped out Sunday nearly 2 feet below projections



SOURCE: Fargo, N.D., Forum; ESRI, TeleAtlas © 2011 MCT

heading into the weekend, and it appeared damage might not extend beyond the homes and businesses that took on water Friday. Officials warned against overconfidence until the river fell enough to take the pressure off levees. The National Weather Service projected the river would decline 2 feet by midweek.

The Picards stood on a bridge overlooking the swollen river,

straining for a glimpse of their house in a distant cul-de-sac. It appeared water was knee-deep on the main floor.

The couple was staying with relatives in the area but said they were determined to return home. After the water recedes, they'll pump the basement dry, tear out drywall and insulation and make needed repairs.

State lawmakers will probably consider offering flood relief during a special session this fall. They have \$386 million in a rainy-day fund, as well as another \$136 million in a school-aid fund that could be diverted to the many communities touched by floodwaters this year. Both funds are fattened by state oil revenues.

"I think we're going to look at Bismarck, Minot, the whole statewide flooding issue, and look at them all together," said Senate Majority Leader Bob Stenehjem, a Republican from Bismarck.

When it comes to paying for rebuilding, FEMA has approved individual assistance for Bismarck (home to the capital of Bismarck) and Ward counties, where Minot is located. Gov. Jack Dalrymple is pushing to expand it to 20 other counties and the Turtle Mountain Chippewa and Spirit Lake Sioux reservations.

"We know that we have a tremendous recovery effort coming, and even as we talk about how to beat this water back over the next few days, we have already started talking about how the recovery will be managed and organized," the governor said.

Pride parade celebrates passage of gay marriage

NEW YORK (AP)—The floats were there, the music and dancing, too—all the usual staples of one of the world's oldest and largest gay pride parades. But this year, something new joined the spectacle on the streets of New York City: proposals and wedding plans.

New York's parade turned into a carnival-like celebration of same-sex marriage Sunday as hundreds of thousands of revelers rejoiced at the state's new law giving gay couples the same marital rights as everyone else.

"We've been waiting to get married in Central Park for

years, and now we got here just in time for history to be made," said Bryce Croft of Kettering, Ohio, who attended the festivities with her partner, Stephanie Croft.

The two women are not yet legally married although they share the same name, and they are in the process of moving to New York and getting married. They were in a Manhattan restaurant late Friday when they learned that the bill had passed.

"We cried over dinner, right into the mozzarella sticks," Stephanie Croft said, adding that they had already selected a spot in Central Park—the

boulder she had marked with Bryce's name two years ago. After the two get settled in their new home, Bryce planned to seek a sex-change operation to become a man.

(See: Pride parade celebrates passage of gay marriage)

The star of Sunday's show was undoubtedly New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who fought to get the bill over its final hurdle in the GOP-led state Senate. The historic law makes New York the sixth state to extend full marriage rights to gay couples and doubles the number of gay people nationwide who are eligible to marry.

ACROSS THE NATION

23 hurt as Pa. school bus overturns on interstate

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. (AP)—A school bus transporting children to camp overturned on a rural Pennsylvania interstate Sunday afternoon, injuring nearly two dozen people and closing the northbound highway lanes for hours. Pennsylvania State Police said the bus from Cumberland Valley Christian School in Chambersburg collided with a passenger vehicle on Interstate 81 at about 4:40 p.m. near Chambersburg. All of the occupants of both vehicles were taken to hospitals.

Ind. hoops star in drug-induced coma after crash

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—An Indiana high school basketball standout who survived a plane crash that killed his father and stepmother is in a drug-induced coma as doctors monitor the badly injured 16-year-old's brain swelling, his father's business partner said Sunday. Austin Hatch suffered brain bruising and swelling and deep facial cuts in Friday's crash that killed his father, Stephen Hatch,

and stepmother, Kim, but has shown some hopeful signs at a northern Michigan hospital, said Dr. G. David Bojrab. Friday's crash was the second one Austin has survived. A 2003 crash killed his mother and two siblings. His father was piloting both times. Austin, a high school junior from Fort Wayne, Ind., recently accepted a scholarship to attend and play basketball for the University of Michigan after graduation.

Flood berm collapses at Nebraska nuclear plant

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—A berm holding the flooded Missouri River back from a Nebraska nuclear power station collapsed early Sunday, but federal regulators said they were monitoring the situation and there was no danger. The Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station shut down in early April for refueling, and there is no water inside the plant, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said. Also, the river is not expected to rise higher than the level the plant was designed to handle. NRC spokesman Victor Dricks said the plant remains safe.

Asia

Pakistan Taliban uses husband, wife as suicide bombers

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—The Pakistani Taliban said Sunday the group had sent a husband and wife suicide squad to carry out an attack on a police station in northwestern Pakistan that killed 10 people, a rare instance of militants using a woman as a bomber.

The pair entered the police station in Kolachi on Saturday and said they were there to lodge a complaint, said Imtiaz Shah, a senior police official. Once inside, the two attacked with grenades and machine guns, triggering a five-hour standoff with police.

Both attackers, including the woman wearing an all-covering robe known as a burqa, eventually blew themselves up. They killed eight police

officers and two civilians, said Mohammad Hussain, another police official.

"This shows how much we hate Pakistani security institutions," Pakistani Taliban spokesman Ahsanullah Ahsan told The Associated Press by telephone from an undisclosed location.

Ahsan claimed it was the first time the militant group had used a female suicide bomber.

However, Pakistani officials said a female suicide bomber wearing a burqa attacked a World Food Program food distribution center in northwestern Pakistan late last year, killing 45 people.

The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for that attack in Khar, the main city in the Bajur

tribal area, but never claimed it was carried out by a female bomber. Still, that was believed to be the group's first attack by a female suicide bomber.

Male suicide bombers often don the burqa as a disguise. In 2007, officials initially claimed Pakistan's first female suicide bomber had killed 14 people in the northwest town of Bannu. But the attacker was later identified as a man.

Islamic militants in Iraq have used female suicide bombers several times because women in their all-covering robes are seen as able to pass more easily through security. Male security officers are often hesitant to search women.

Also Sunday, a bomb planted in a motorcycle exploded near a

police station in the central city of Multan, said Zahid Zaman, a senior government official.

The blast wounded eight people, including four police officials, said Wasim Hashmi,

chief of the rescue squad in Multan. No group claimed responsibility.

Karzai: Pakistan firing rockets into Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—President Hamid Karzai on Sunday accused Pakistan of firing 470 rockets into two eastern Afghan provinces over the past three weeks, a deadly rain of artillery that Afghan officials said killed 36 people, including 12 children.

The attacks came in areas of Kunar and Nangarhar provinces where NATO forces have withdrawn, and where Pakistani Taliban moved in behind fleeing civilians, Afghan border officials said.

Karzai indicated Pakistani government forces are responsible for the bombardment, and "they should be stopped immediately." And "if they are not being carried out by Pakistan, Pakistan should make it clear who is behind the attacks," he said in a statement issued by the presidential palace.

NATO reported, meanwhile, that five service members were killed in at least three insurgent attacks in western, southern, and eastern Afghanistan on

Sunday. The international coalition gave no other details. The deaths bring to at least 53 the number of NATO service members killed in June, and to more than 200 the number this year.

Karzai said he discussed the rocket barrage with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zadari during an anti-terrorism conference in Tehran on Saturday, the same day the Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman spoke of the attacks and warned that Afghanistan would defend itself.

"The government of Pakistan should understand that there will be a reaction for killing Afghan citizens," said spokesman Mohammad Zahir Azimi.

In response to the Pakistani barrage, Afghan security forces in the eastern provinces of Khost and Paktika fired artillery across the border at least twice on Friday, Azimi said. Afghan security officials said NATO also fired into Pakistan on June 17. NATO and Pakistan military officials earlier denied any knowledge of such border fire

from the Afghan side.

The Afghan president said he also discussed the border attack with Afghan NATO commander Gen. David Petraeus and U.S. Ambassador Karl Eikenberry during his regular national security council meeting on Sunday.

American and Afghan officials have pressured Pakistan to end its security forces' longstanding relationship with the Taliban movement, viewed as a tool for Pakistani influence over strategically placed Afghanistan. Such major artillery support for a Taliban operation, however, would be one of the most blatant recent examples of Pakistani support and bodes ill for the testy relationship among the three countries.

Afghan border police spokesman Edris Mohmand, who reported 36 Afghans killed by the rockets, including 12 children, said 2,000 families have fled districts threatened by the barrage, including Asmar and Nangalam in Kunar, and Goshta district in Nangarhar.



STORM'S WAKE

A Filipino man living along a creekside shanty returns to his home which have been flooded following a storm at Marikina city, east of Manila, Philippines on Sunday, June 26, 2011. At least one person drowned and 17 others remained missing due to Tropical Storm Meari, which has blown out of the country yesterday. More than 100,000 people have been moved to evacuation centers.

AP

Cambodian tribunal set to try Khmer Rouge leaders

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Now old and infirm, four of the top surviving members of the Khmer Rouge's ruling elite are about to face justice, decades after their plans for a Communist utopia in Cambodia left an estimated 1.7 million people dead by execution, medical neglect, overwork and starvation.

On Monday a U.N.-backed tribunal, comprising Cambodian and foreign jurists, will begin trying them on charges including crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide, religious persecution, homicide and torture. With Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot long dead, this may be the nation's best chance to hold architects of the "Killing Fields" and the enslavement of millions of Cambodians accountable, though all four say they are innocent.

Nuon Chea, 84, was Pol Pot's No. 2 and the group's chief ideologist. Khieu Samphan, 79, was its former head of state. Ieng Sary, 85, was its foreign minister, and his 79-year-old

wife, Ieng Thirith, was minister for social affairs.

Together, they form what the tribunal calls Case 002. The chief jailer of a notorious Khmer Rouge prison was convicted last year in the breakthrough Case 001. Political and financial pressures on the tribunal are raising doubts over whether there will ever be a Case 003.

Although this week's court sessions will be strictly procedural, with testimony and presentation of evidence expected to begin in August or September, it will mark the first joint appearance of the defendants in the dock, 32 years after the Khmer Rouge were kicked out of power in 1979 with the help of a Vietnamese invasion.

Pol Pot escaped justice with his death in 1998, then a prisoner of his own comrades as his once-mighty movement, in jungle retreat, was collapsing.

The tribunal, officially known as the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, started operations in 2006. Its

first defendant was Kaing Guek Eav, also known as Duch, commandant of Tuol Sleng prison, known as S-21, where only a handful of prisoners survived. Up to 16,000 people were tortured under Duch's command and later taken away to be killed.

Duch, now 68, was sentenced to 35 years in prison for war crimes and crimes against humanity. His sentence was reduced to a 19-year term because of time previously served and other technicalities, bringing angry criticism from victims who called the punishment too lenient. Cambodia has no death penalty.

Alex Hinton, an anthropology professor at Rutgers University and author of a book about genocide in Cambodia, says Duch's case had "enormous symbolic value" because the prison was so closely associated with the horrors of the Khmer Rouge. But Case 002 "is more significant in that it will put the four most senior surviving Khmer Rouge leaders on trial for the first time."



ASIAN BRIEFS

US cable: China official, Taiwanese spy had affair

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A U.S. diplomatic cable released by the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks says former Chinese Finance Minister Jin Renqing was fired in 2007 for having a sexual relationship with a suspected Taiwanese spy. The reported affair occurred during the administration of Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian, when bilateral tensions were high because of Beijing's anger over Chen's pro-independence policies. The cable from the U.S. consulate general in Shanghai was dated Sept. 20, 2007. It described the unidentified woman as a promiscuous socialite and said Chinese investigators believed she was a Taiwanese spy.

Strong earthquake rocks Indonesia's Papua province

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A strong earthquake rocked parts of Indonesia's Papua province on Sunday, causing panic among residents but no immediate reports of damage or casual-

ties. Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said the magnitude 6.5 earthquake was centered about 53 kilometers (33 miles) north-east of Waren, a town on the northern coast of Papua island. It was followed by two strong aftershocks, the first of magnitude 5.3, the second of magnitude 5.5, the agency said.

14 killed as bus crashes into trench in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A passenger bus has plunged from a hill into a trench in Indonesia's Sumatra island, killing 14 people. The bus was carrying some 65 people from North Sumatra to Bengkulu on Saturday when it slid down into a wide ditch filled with water, the Antara news agency reported Sunday. Rescuers found 14 people dead and another 49 alive. Antara says rescuers were searching the mostly submerged wreckage in South Tapanuli regency for other victims. The agency quoted Lt. Col. Nainggolan of the local police as saying the bus was apparently too heavy, causing it to fail as it tried to climb the hill.

World

Libyan rebels claim advances in western mountains

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Rebels in Libya's western mountains said they have advanced and are battling Moammar Gadhafi's forces in a strategic town southwest of the capital, ramping up pressure against government troops on a second front.

The rebels' claim of an advance into the outskirts of the town of Bair al-Ghanam, some 50 miles (80 kilometers) from Tripoli, follows weeks of intense fighting in the Nafusa mountains in which opposition forces have slowly pushed Gadhafi troops back toward the capital.

Libya's rebels control the eastern third of the country and pockets, including a number of Nafusa mountain towns, in the west. The bulk of the fighting in recent months has been focused on front lines to the east of Tripoli. But a push by rebels from the Nafusa mountains could force Gadhafi to commit more troops to the southern and western approaches to the capital. A rebel military spokesman in the Nafusa mountains, Gomaa Ibrahim, said opposition fighters and government troops have been fighting since early Sunday on the periphery of Bair al-Ghanam.

Guma el-Gamaty, a spokesman for the rebels' National Transitional council, said the town is significant because it is only 19 miles (30 kilometers) south of the city of Zawiyah, a key western gateway to the capital and home to a crucial oil refinery.



Libyan demonstrators make the V-victory sign as their shadows are cast onto a rebel flag during a protest against Moammar Gadhafi in the rebel-held capital Benghazi, Libya, Saturday, June 25, 2011.

Opposition fighters seized control of Zawiyah in March before government troops crushed rebel forces there to retake the city. Fighting broke out in the city again earlier this month, briefly cutting access to the vital coastal highway that passes through Zawiyah. The route links Tripoli with the Tunisian border and is one of Gadhafi's last main supply lines.

In Tripoli, Gadhafi's government remained defiant. Government spokesman Moussa Ibrahim said Gadhafi is in "high spirits" and remains in day-to-day control of the country. He insisted Gadhafi will remain in Libya, but wouldn't confirm that

the leader is still in the capital.

"Gadhafi is here, he is staying. He is leading the country. He will not leave. He will not step down," Ibrahim told reporters in Tripoli, challenging the rebels and the NATO-led coalition giving them air support. "If they want to continue the fight, we are ready. We will fight street to street, house to house."

As he spoke, deafening bursts of automatic rifle fire shot into the air by female soldiers and fresh civilian trainees rang out at a pro-government event in central Tripoli. Moussa told reporters that the government so far has distributed 1.2 million weapons to supporters in the west of the

country to defend themselves.

Just over 100 Libyans arrived in Tripoli by ship from the eastern rebel stronghold of Benghazi early Sunday. The ferry was operated by the International Committee of the Red Cross, which transported about 300 people in the opposite direction, to Benghazi from Tripoli, on Friday.

Many of those arriving aboard the blue-and-white "Ionis" ferry on Sunday appeared to be families with small children and elderly people. While a small number of passengers waved green Libyan flags and chanted pro-Gadhafi slogans, others said they were returning simply to be reunited with loved ones in the west.

Mohammed Saad Aziz said he was returning to Tripoli to be with family following the recent death of his mother. He called on NATO to stop its daily bombing runs to give Libyans a chance to resolve the conflict on their own.

"We need to solve our problems ourselves and we do not want anyone to interfere. They (NATO) have to step aside and let us work out our problems. We will solve our own problems through dialogue," he said.

Red Cross spokesman Robin Waudou said many more people displaced by the conflict would like to make the sea journey across the front lines, but have so far been prevented from doing so because officials on both sides must approve who makes the crossing.

Meanwhile, African leaders meeting in Pretoria, South Africa said Gadhafi has agreed not to take part in negotiations to end the more than four months of turmoil in Libya. There was no immediate confirmation from the Libya regime of what could be a significant concession.

In a communique issued after a daylong meeting in South Africa's capital, the African Union's committee on Libya said it "welcomes Col. Gadhafi's acceptance of not being part of the negotiation process."

The communique did not elaborate, and committee members did not take questions.

WORLD BRIEFS

Moroccans protest for and against new constitution

CASABLANCA, Morocco (AP)—Tens of thousands of people demonstrated around Morocco both for and against a proposed new constitution on Sunday, just a week before it is to be voted on in a referendum. In Morocco's largest city, Casablanca, government supporters first blocked then attacked with rocks a march by thousands of activists, wounding many. King Mohammed VI announced a new constitution June 17 following unprecedented nationwide protests for greater freedoms in the preceding months.

Senegalese youths burn church, destroy bar

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—Hundreds of Muslim protesters descended on a Jehovah's Witness temple and a bar in a conservative Muslim neighborhood of the Senegalese capital on Sunday, setting the buildings on fire in a rare instance of religious extremism in this normally moderate Islamic republic. Thierno Mbeugne, spokesman for the local imam association, said the head imam in the conservative Yoff district of Dakar had asked the youth to march on Sunday against what they considered as "acts of aggression against their faith." They were targeting the temple because they claim its members were proselytizing, and the bar because it was selling alcohol.

Israel: Journalists on flotilla face expulsion

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel said Sunday that any foreign journalist caught on board a Gaza-bound flotilla could face deportation and a 10-year ban from the country, in a move that threatened to worsen the nation's already strained relationship with the international media. Journalists said they should be allowed to cover a legitimate news story, but Israel said the media would be complicit in an illegal breach of its naval blockade of a hostile territory ruled by a terrorist group. The announcement reflected Israeli jitters about the international flotilla, which comes just more than a year after a similar mission ended with the deaths of nine Turkish activists in clashes with Israeli naval commandos who intercepted them.

Nigeria: 25 killed in three bomb attacks in northeast

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP)—Men riding motorcycles threw bombs into outdoor beer gardens Sunday night in northeastern Nigeria, killing at least 25 people in attacks bearing striking similarities to others carried out by a radical Islamic sect in the region, police said.

The bombs exploded in the restive city of Maiduguri, home to the sect known locally as Boko Haram. While the sect did not immediately claim responsibility for the attack late Sunday, the assault bore the hallmarks of the group now waging assassinations and attacks against the Nigerian government.

The bombs exploded around 5 p.m. at several outdoor beer gardens in Maiduguri, which is about 540 miles (870 kilometers) from Nigeria's capital, Abuja. Borno state, where Maiduguri is the capital, is under Muslim Shariah law, but several outdoor beer gardens exist.

Lawal Abdullahi, a spokesman for the federal Nigeria Police Force, said the bombs struck at least three beer parlors in the state.

Boko Haram, whose name means "Western education is sacrilege" in the local Hausa language, wants the implementation of strict Shariah law across Nigeria's north. The group claimed responsibility for an attack that killed at least two people at the federal police headquarters earlier this month in Abuja.

Nigeria, a nation of 150 million people, is divided between the Christian-dominated south and the Muslim north. A dozen states across Nigeria's north already have Shariah law in place, though the area remains under the control of secular state governments.

Boko Haram is responsible for a rash of killings which have targeted police officers, soldiers, politicians and clerics in Nigeria's north over the last year—including attacks at local beer parlors. They have also attacked churches and engineered a massive prison break. However, authorities say attacks intensified after April 26 gubernatorial elections kept the same political party in power.

Hugo Chavez's brother talks of armed struggle

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—One of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's brothers said Sunday that backers of the hospitalized leftist leader should not rule out armed struggle in the future, though they prefer to maintain power at the ballot box.

Adan Chavez's statement came as speculation mounted about the health of the president, who has been convalescing at an undisclosed location in Cuba after reportedly undergoing emergency surgery 16 days ago. Chavez's older brother said Venezuela's ruling party wants to retain power by defeating foes in elections. But he told government supporters that they should be ready to take up arms if necessary.

"As authentic revolutionaries, we cannot forget other forms of fighting," he said during a prayer meeting for the health of his 56-year-old brother in the leader's home state of Barinas.

Quoting Latin American revolutionary icon Ernesto "Che" Guevara, the president's brother added: "It would be inexcusable to limit ourselves to only the electoral and not see other forms of struggle, including the armed struggle."

Adan Chavez is a mild-mannered former university phys-

ics professor who has a close relationship with the president while maintaining a low profile. He did not explain why it might be necessary for the president's backers to consider the possibility of guerrilla warfare in the future, and the statement seemed to clash with Hugo Chavez's own assertions.

The president, a former paratroop commander, led an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow an earlier government in 1992. But he has repeatedly beaten his adversaries in elections since taking office in 1999 and he has long insisted that he is an authentic democrat who rules out violence as a means of holding onto power.

Despite numerous domestic problems ranging from soaring inflation to widespread crime, Chavez remains Venezuela's most popular politician and he has vowed to win re-election next year.

Ramon Guillermo Aveledo, a spokesman for a coalition of major opposition parties, condemned Adan Chavez's suggestions that government supporters should be prepared to take

up arms. "He's wrong to talk about violence because the Venezuelan people are peaceful," Aveledo said in a statement.

Aveledo predicted Hugo Chavez would be defeated in next year's presidential vote, saying: "He arrived through the ballot and he'll leave through the ballot."

Opposition leaders also accused the president of failing to fully inform Venezuelans about his health, saying the president's condition following surgery in Cuba should not be shrouded in secrecy.

Despite assurances from top government officials and close relatives that Chavez is recuperating, the president's silence and seclusion since the operation have spurred growing speculation about how ill Chavez might be. Opponents say Chavez and his aides should be more straightforward. "The uncertainty regarding Hugo Chavez's health and considerable speculation over the real illness affecting him reveal the government's serious constitutional violations," said Miguel Angel Rodriguez, an opposition lawmaker.



Chavez

Focus

Boston mob boss James “Whitey” Bulger did almost everything right in evading capture for 16 years.

The notorious mobster’s run from the law was remarkable for its longevity, which was due mainly to the unremarkable new identity he built for himself while on the lam.

He adopted an unassuming lifestyle, paid for everything with cash, didn’t drive a car, limited his social contact to small talk and adhered to the code of silence from the mob life he left behind. When federal agents tracked him to his lair this week, it was only after targeting the one part of his past that Bulger didn’t leave behind—his long-time girlfriend, Catherine Greig. By all accounts, the two did little to ever arouse suspicion, posing as two retirees holed up in a bland white 1970s apartment complex in Santa Monica amid other buildings of the same era. Although Bulger—who fled Boston in 1995 after a retired FBI agent who had recruited him as an informant tipped him to a pending indictment—was believed to have millions of dollars stashed in secret accounts, and investigators found \$800,000 hidden in the apartment, the couple didn’t live lavishly. They paid \$1,145 cash several days in advance each month for a rent-controlled unit, while newer neighbors paid more than twice as much. Greig shopped at a 99-cent store.

Occasionally, they splurged, even while remaining discreet.

Andrew Turner, the general manager of Michael’s, recognized pictures of the fugitives this week as the couple who dined occasionally at table No. 23 at the upscale institution. He had a record of them paying their \$190 tab in cash for a meal that included Grey Goose vodka cocktails, foie gras, steak and lobster, topped off by wine, in September 2009—the month Bulger turned 80. The couple kept to themselves and were unassuming, Turner recalled.

“This guy was just nice, mild and meek, milquetoast in a little apartment in Santa Monica,” said Bill Keefer, a retired U.S. marshal who supervised the witness protection program in Los Angeles, Hawaii and Long Island, N.Y. “This guy should have been a supervisor with the marshal’s witness protection program. He did an outstanding job, the louse.”

Bulger, now 81, has been linked to 19 murders, including the strangling of an associate’s girlfriend who knew he was a snitch and the murder of a man shot so many times his leg was almost severed from his body.

His flight in 1995 was big news at the time. In addition to Bulger’s indictment for racketeering along with other major mob figures, questions were raised about his ability to always

be one step ahead of the law and because his brother, state Senate president William Bulger, was one of Massachusetts’ most powerful politicians.

His fugitive status only grew when the FBI was forced to acknowledge in court two years later what had been long-whispered in law enforcement: the

It’s not clear how far they roamed, but their travels ended in this sun-splashed beach city about 15 years ago when they moved into unit 303 of the Princess Eugenia apartments as Charles and Carol Gasko.

As they reinvented themselves, Bulger and Greig stuck to a low-key lifestyle

on to a time-bomb,” Gluck said. “At one point, she said, ‘He has a rage issue.’”

Others said the couple went out of their way to ingratiate themselves while also maintaining a distance.

Bulger, once known for kind acts in South Boston that were in sharp contrast to the viciousness

derly resident. Greig befriended dog owners on the street.

“They were good neighbors,” said Catalina Schlank, 88. “I will miss them.”

Bulger’s wealth helped him maintain independence from family or former criminal allies who might have given away his location, said retired FBI agent

beaches and famous pier punctuated by a colorful Ferris wheel, shops and food shacks.

The dynamic city of nearly 85,000 just miles from Los Angeles may also have been an ideal location to hide in plain sight, said Jack Cluff, a former U.S. marshal in Idaho who was involved in the deadly standoff with fugitive white separatist Randy Weaver at Ruby Ridge and helped bring in the 1970s Russian spy Christopher Boyce.

Many fugitives get caught because they hole up in a remote location where locals get curious or where they get cabin fever and spill their story to the wrong person, Cluff said. Others are brought down by informants or because they’ve run out of money and connections—problems Bulger didn’t have because of his wealth and fearsome reputation back home.

While Bulger had several fake identifications, he didn’t have a car to run the risk of a traffic violation or accident that might lead to the discovery of his true identity.

His thick white beard had also dramatically changed his appearance from his Boston days and the photos the FBI circulated publicly for years.

“You see him on TV compared to what he looks like really and man, I’ll tell you what, he’s going to walk right past me and I’d never blink an eye at him,” Cluff said. “He’d really changed, with the full beard and what have you.”

In the end, however, there was one way in which Bulger was like almost every other fallen fugitive. About 85 percent of apprehended fugitives are brought down by a girlfriend or former girlfriend, Cluff said.

After many failed efforts to net the couple, including searches in 19 countries and a campaign to reach out to plastic surgeons who may have altered their appearances, the FBI this week tailored their latest campaign at Greig, 60, who is wanted for harboring a fugitive.

Public service announcements were aired during programs aimed at women that asked for information leading to Greig’s whereabouts. They pointed out that Greig, a dental hygienist, was known to frequent beauty salons and have her teeth cleaned once a month.

The ads weren’t aired in Los Angeles, but news coverage produced a tip that led agents to the Gasko apartment. A call was placed to Bulger telling him someone had broken into his on-site storage unit.

He fell for the ruse. When Bulger went to check on his property, agents were there to take advantage of his first misstep in long a run from justice.

“I always used to say, ‘If I don’t catch ‘em today, I’ll catch ‘em tomorrow,’” Keefer said. “But to go 15 years, that’s really, really a ‘wow’ thing.”

FBI Advertisement Placed in The American Dental Association News May 17, 2010 Edition

Have You Treated These Fugitives ?



1992 Photo



1990 Photo



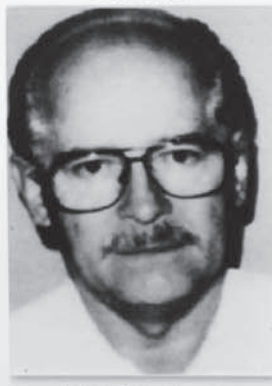
1989 Photo



1982 Photo



1996 Photo



1994 Photo



1980's Photo

Mobsters run

almost textbook case of evasion

By CHRISTINA HOAG and GILLIAN FLACCUS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boston FBI bureau had a corrupt relationship with its informants and looked the other way as they knocked off associates. A Bulger lieutenant testified in 2002 that Bulger boasted that he had corrupted six FBI agents and more than 20 Boston cops, keeping them loyal with Christmas envelopes stuffed with cash.

Between the time of his flight and settling on the West Coast, Bulger had about two years to reinvent himself.

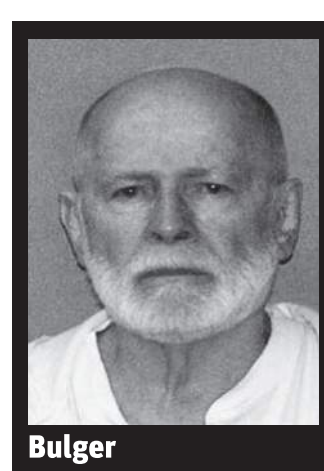
In the fall of 1995, the couple checked into a hotel as “Mr. and Mrs. Tom Baxter,” according to an FBI affidavit unsealed this week. They spent time on New York’s Long Island and lived six weeks in a two-bedroom apartment in the fishing village of Grand Isle, La., in 1996.

that didn’t invite attention. They didn’t appear to have visitors, never spoke of family and limited conversations to superficial chit chat.

Neighbors said they stuck close to home, walking to the nearby Third Street Promenade, the city’s outdoor mall, or strolling along the Palisades Park, a ribbon of grass and trees that runs along a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean a few blocks from home.

Greig was the more outgoing of the two while Bulger was sometimes cranky and reclusive. Barbara Gluck, a tenant down the hall, described Greig as sweet and lovely. They would chat pleasantly until Bulger barked at Greig to stop talking with her.

“It was like she was hanging



Bulger

of his alleged crimes, helped a young mother carry grocery bags to her apartment and offered a flashlight to a building employee at night. The couple sent a sympathy card when a property manager’s father died. They left gifts of fruit for an el-

Scott Bakken, who worked the Bulger case for a short time in 2002. With a \$2 million bounty on his head, Bulger had little incentive to touch base with anyone in his old South Boston neighborhood, particularly after it became clear he had broken the code of silence and ratted on rivals and allies alike.

“Here you have somebody who is far more sophisticated than some 18-year-old who killed someone in a drive-by,” said Bakken, the FBI agent. “To be a successful fugitive you have to cut all contacts from your previous life. He had the means and kept a low profile.”

The couple melted into the background in Santa Monica, a sunny, beachside playground that attracts aging sunbirds, families and a hip younger set to its wide

Overdrive

Single guys—many of them anyway—want a car that attracts the eye of the opposite sex. Sometimes they opt for a muscle car, sports sedan or maybe even a pickup truck.

But guys, you're going about it all wrong. Based on last week's test drive, I can offer this advice: if you really want to catch a woman's eye with a car, opt for the 2012 Fiat 500.

Seriously. This little mouse attracts the attention of women by the bucketful. That said, it's best for women to note that the car doesn't attract that many guys.

The Fiat 500 comes to America courtesy of Chrysler, which is now controlled by Italy's Fiat SpA, one of the world's oldest automakers.

Available as a coupe or cabriolet, the 2012 Fiat 500 is a modern rendition of the Nuovo 500, an air-cooled, rear-engined, rear-drive people's car built by Fiat from 1957 to 1975. This new version debuted in 2007 and was voted European Car of the Year the following year. It is as much an automotive icon as

the Austin Mini, VW Beetle and Citroen 2CV, not to mention Italy's own Vespa.

But there's no denying that the 2012 Fiat 500 is a car that, at first blush, seems to have missed the call for y-chromosomes. Its gently rounded roofline, softly pudgy sheetmetal and large, round headlamps make the 500 appear as cuddly as a basket of puppies. But it's no more so than a Mini or a Beetle, which have a similar neo-retro look and sophisticated vibe.

That's especially true inside, where clever design hides the inexpensive nature of the materials. Chrome accents, grained plastics, body-colored instrument panel and a premium material that recalls Bakelite accent this dazzling dashboard. The audio system's design recalls an old-fashioned car radio, despite its modern buttons. The climate controls continue the round theme established by the radio's design.

There's plenty of front seat room—Fiat enlarged them for America—as well as a pair of cupholders. Rear seat room is fairly tight unless the front seats are pulled well forward. Better to fold them

down for extra cargo room; the trunk holds less than 6 cubic feet of stuff.

And a center console bin would be nice. Aside from door map pockets and some cupholders, the glove box is the only front seat storage space offered.

Still, Fiat has done an amazing job of carving out a lot space from such a diminutive package.

The driving position is typically Italian. The steering wheel tilts, but doesn't telescope, forcing drivers to stretch their arms out straight. But their legs will be scrunched up. Surprisingly, it's comfortable thanks to the 500's high seating position. This is one car that's easy to get in and out of, since you don't have to duck to get into it.

The test car's optional heated leather seats gave the cabin a rich look. They proved comfortable over long stretches, but those who favor seats with aggressive side bolsters will be disappointed.

The test car, a 500C—or cabriolet—featured a lined top that opens to three different positions. The first is similar to that of a sunroof, while the second al-

lows backseat passengers to catch some rays. The third position folds all of the way down into a neat stack. However, this blocks the view in the rearview mirror, so driving with the top down calls for caution when changing lanes or backing up. Thankfully, Fiat equips the 500 with backup sensors that beep as you approach an object.

Fiat also kept the door frames intact, so the 500C doesn't have the full feel of a convertible, although it does maintain the car's body stiffness, so there isn't the typical convertible shudder over lumpy pavement.

The big question for many folks is: How does it perform? The answer: acceptably. There's enough power from the 101-horsepower 1.4-liter engine to adequately move the car whether mated to the five-speed manual transmission or the six-speed automatic. The engine feels happiest at speed, where you can keep it revving at 3,000-5,000 rpm. That will ding fuel economy, but at least you'll have fun.

Ride quality is surprisingly good for such a short car. Fiat wisely chose a

somewhat soft set-up, which makes this car tolerable for traversing our crumbling roadways. There's some body lean and even some bobbing over bumps, but it's very controllable. Grip is excellent.

So is build quality.

For those of you who grew up the Fiats of decades past, realize that it's unfair to compare any car today to one produced 30 years ago. Cars have changed significantly. In fact, the 500 comes with complimentary service for the first three years of ownership. The car's warranty lasts 4 years or 50,000 miles.

The Fiat 500 is a very impressive small car. It oozes the sort of style that makes anyone overpay for something with an Italian label, except that this car isn't overpriced.

The coupe starts at what passes for inexpensive these days: \$15,500. The Cabrio starts at just under \$20,000. The test car, a fully-loaded Cabrio in Lounge trim, almost reached 26 grand with such options as heated leather seats, premium wheels and bodyside decals.

That's cheap enough to make this the perfect car, no matter what your gender.

2012 Fiat 500 impressively good for tiny size, price

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

The 2012 Fiat 500 is impressively good for tiny size, price.

MCT

NUTS & BOLTS

What we say: Cheap chic. Bravo.
Pro: Style and price
Con: A bit pokey
Engine: 1.4-liter four-cylinder
Wheelbase: 90.6 inches
Length: 139.6 inches
Weight: 2,486 pounds
Cargo space: 5.4 cubic feet
EPA rating (city/highway): 27/32 mpg
Fuel consumption: 30.5 mpg
Fuel type: Premium recommended, but not required
Base price, base model: \$15,500
Base price, test model: \$23,500
As tested: \$25,949

Noisy truck may have a few screws loose

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I've begun to hear a knocking sound from my truck's engine. The odd thing is it comes and goes, depending on whether I'm in park or drive with the transmission. I know knocks are serious problems, and I need to make a decision about whether to fix it or just sell it as is. Any advice on how to know what it may be?—Daryl Tunney

ANSWER: Your description of the sound changing when the automatic transmission is placed in gear is a valuable clue that this problem could have a moderately priced solution. Engine knocking is typically caused by loose or worn crankshaft bearings. Crankshaft main bearings usually make a deep rumbling knock while connecting rod bearings emit a rapping sound.

It sounds like the noise you're hearing may be caused by loose torque converter bolts or a cracked transmission flex plate, rather than an internal engine problem. Automatic transmission equipped vehicles typically utilize a thin steel flex plate, rather than the thick and heavy flywheel used with a

manual transmission. In addition to providing a connection between the engine and transmission, the flex plate also contains teeth around its perimeter, which are driven by the starter.

The center of the flex plate bolts to the back end of the engine's crankshaft and the torque converter, a large, heavy fluid filled device, bolts in either three or four places to the flex plate, near the perimeter. These torque converter bolts can loosen slightly, leading to movement and eventual elongation of the bolt holes in the flex plate. The noise emitted sounds much like an engine knock, but can vary depending on transmission load. In many cases, installing thread adhesive and tightening the bolts will fix the problem. If the bolt holes are severely elongated, the fix may not last very long, requiring flex plate replacement.

Accessing torque converter bolts is usually pretty easy, as a removable cover is the only obstacle. If the torque converter bolts are found to be tight, check for flex plate cracking by removing the bolts and gently sliding the torque converter back from the flywheel—it'll move back about 3/4 of an inch. Use a good flashlight. Cracking

can be difficult to see; it may resemble a rust-colored spider web on the surface of the flex plate rather than an obvious crack. Replacing a cracked flex plate requires transmission removal and reinstallation—or sliding it back a few inches and working like a surgeon—but this is highly preferable to dealing with an internal engine knock.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Q: Is it OK to mix motor oils? I needed oil and had to add two quarts of 10W30 oil instead of the 5W20 oil shown on the filler cap. Should I change the oil right away?—Amy Evans

A: Mixing oil weights is not harmful as long as the blend is close to the engine manufacturer's specification. Mixing brands in a pinch is OK too, but the oil additives may not be entirely compatible. Since it was two quarts consumed, perhaps half of capacity, I'm guessing it's about time to change your oil anyway.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Electric-vehicle costs vary from car to car

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

QUESTION: We've all read about the money to be saved by owning an electric car or a plug-in hybrid car, but I'd like to see some discussion of the electrical charges involved. Surely there must be some information on the average cost breakdown.—Stanley Eskin, Boca Raton, Fla.

ANSWER: There is, but the details are pretty general, based on several factors. One is that the cost of electricity varies from state to state, community to community, and even according to the time of day you recharge—off-peak hours at night are typically cheaper than in the daytime.

Another issue is the amount of electricity the vehicle requires. The Toyota Prius plug-in, for instance, has a smaller battery than the Chevrolet Volt. It won't go as far on a full-battery charge, but it will cost less to charge back up. An all-electric car like the Nissan Leaf will be the most, since unlike the Volt or plug-in Prius, it depends completely

on its batteries, and doesn't have a gasoline engine to help out.

And finally, the degree of recharging needed will vary, just like the amount of gas you buy varies according to how far you have been. The Volt batteries, for instance, never get close to being fully discharged—Chevrolet figures that would shorten battery life. And finally, all these vehicles come with a 110-volt household-current charger, but a quicker, higher-voltage charger costs extra, as much as \$2,000 or more. Tax credits may help, but don't forget to factor that in.

All that said, here are some educated guesses: 80 cents to \$1.50 to charge a Volt, which will get you 40 miles or so. For the plug-in Prius, a bit less than that, but it won't go nearly as far on pure electricity. For the Nissan Leaf electric, Nissan is saying \$2.75 should be the national average for a complete charge. That's for a range of about 75 miles.

Steven Cole Smith is the automotive editor at the Orlando Sentinel in Florida. Send questions to scsmith@orlandosentinel.com.

Life & Style



Prince Albert II of Monaco and his fiancée Charlene Wittstock attend to the St Jean Religious Parade, Thursday, June 23, 2011, in Monaco.

Monaco's bride seeking to make her own mark

By JENNY BARCHFIELD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charlene Wittstock has not one, but two tough acts to follow.

As the future princess of Monaco and wife to longtime bachelor Prince Albert II, the Zimbabwe-born, South Africa-raised former Olympic swimmer is to succeed Grace Kelly, whose 1956 wedding to Prince Rainier III is still widely seen as the gold standard for royal nuptials.

And as if the blue-eyed Hollywood beauty-turned-beloved princess didn't cast a long enough shadow, Albert's long-awaited marriage to Wittstock comes on the heels of the royal wedding of the decade, Kate Middleton's union with Britain's Prince William.

It's still the biggest thing to hit Monaco since Grace walked down the aisle in an elegant antique lace gown, ushering in a new era of high-wattage glamour into this tiny Riviera principality known for its high-flying casinos and lax tax laws.

The country still mourns Grace, who died in a car crash nearly 30 years ago, but Monegasques are eagerly awaiting their new princess. Though 53-year-old Albert has been romantically linked to some of Europe's most eligible bachelorettes over the years, he long resisted marriage, and the up-

coming wedding will be his first trip down the aisle.

It's to be a grand affair.

It will be held over not one but two days in the princely palace—a fortress-turned-Italian Renaissance residence, where members of the ruling Grimaldi dynasty have lived since the 15th century. And the guest list reads like a who's who of Europe's rich and powerful. Several heads of state are expected, along with royals from Spain to Sweden, top names in the sporting and music worlds and the celebrated couturier to the stars, Chanel's Karl Lagerfeld.

A civil ceremony will be held on July 1 in the palace's throne room, the red silk damask-draped hall where Grace wed the late Prince Rainier 55 years ago. The religious ceremony will take place the following day in the palace's marble courtyard, before some 3,500 seated guests. Access to Monaco's old town will be limited during the event, but the principality's 7,600 citizens are to be allowed in to watch the ceremony on giant screens set up outside the palace.

World famous chef Alain Ducasse will be serving up a multi-course gala dinner for about 500 guests. Ducasse—who holds an astonishing 19 Michelin stars—hasn't revealed what exactly is on the menu but says it will be local and sustainable, with everything besides the Cham-

Royal wedding

The tiny principality of Monaco will be holding a big celebration July 1 and 2 when Prince Albert II and South African swimming champion Charlene Wittstock marry during two ceremonies—one civil and one religious—at the prince's palace.



Main events

Thursday, June 30

- Concert by the Eagles at Louis II Stadium; open to all people in Monaco, 15,000 expected to attend

Friday, July 1

- Civil wedding in the Throne Room of the palace, where the prince's parents, Prince Rainier III and Grace Kelly, were wed in 1956
- Buffet on the Palace Square prepared by South African and Monacan chefs, then a reception and concert at Port Hercules

Saturday, July 2

- Religious wedding in the main courtyard of the palace, where Archbishop Bernard Barsi will celebrate Mass
- Procession to Sainte Devote Church, where the bride will leave her bouquet
- Dinner and ball on the terraces of the opera house; celebrity chef Alain Ducasse will prepare the gala dinner at the Hotel de Paris

© 2011 MCT
Source: Prince's Palace of Monaco
Graphic: Pat Carr

pagne and South African wines sourced from a six-mile (10-kilometer) radius from Monaco. A fireworks display over the

azure waters of Monaco Bay will cap the festivities, which were so long in coming many Monegasques feared they

might never come to pass.

"We've been waiting impatiently for my lord's marriage for a very long time," said Carine Dick, who runs a souvenir shop near "le rocher," the giant rocky outcropping crowned by the palace. "We were getting kind of worried there, but in the end it's better to wait and find the right person than get it wrong."

The Grimaldis—one of Europe's oldest dynasties—have been beset by romantic scandals. Princess Caroline, the eldest of Grace and Rainier's three children, was divorced after an unhappy two-year marriage to French playboy Philippe Junot, and after her second husband was killed in a boating accident, remarried a German prince known for his explosive temper. Albert's younger sister, Princess Stephanie, has had three children out of wedlock, including two with her former bodyguard, and was also briefly married to a Portuguese circus acrobat.

Wittstock and Albert cut a dashing figure together, the balding prince looking dashing but affable in dark suits and glasses while his fiancée—20 years his junior—exudes a relaxed, understated chic.

Wittstock was born in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, in 1978, but the family relocated to neighboring South Africa when she was 12. Her father, Michael, works as a sales manager while her mother, Lynette, is a retired swimming coach. Under her mother's tutelage, Wittstock rose to Olympic levels, swimming for South Africa in the summer games in Sydney in 2000.

That same year, she won the gold medal for backstroke at a meet in Monaco, where she caught the prince's eye. Albert—himself an Olympic bobsledder—has told interviewers it was Wittstock's athletic drive that attracted him to her, though her slim silhouette and shapely swimmer's arms and shoulders mustn't have hurt either.

Wittstock retired from swimming in 2007, after moving to Monaco to be closer to the prince. Locals say she's maintained a low profile.

"You see the prince all the time, just walking around, but you never see her," said Stive Osmont, a waiter at a restaurant near the palace. "It's understandable because she didn't have an official role for all those years. But now that she is going to be princess, we're really looking forward to getting to know her better."

Prince Albert Alexandre Louis Pierre, Marquis of Baux, is the second child—and only son—of Princess Grace and Prince Rainier, who ascended to the throne at the tender age of 26. Albert, on the other hand, was 47 when he became reigning prince in 2005, after his father's death.

Though he dated a string of famous beauties said to include U.S. actress Brooke Shields and supermodels Claudia Schiffer and Naomi Campbell, Albert's reluctance to tie the knot was known to have strained relations

with his father and also sparked persistent rumors he was gay.

Albert repeatedly denied it, but the rumors were squelched only after the prince acknowledged fathering two children out of wedlock.

Jazmin Grace Grimaldi was born of a 1991 tryst with Tamara Rotolo, a California woman who had been vacationing in the Mediterranean, while Alexandre Coste was born in 2003 to a former flight attendant originally from the west African nation of Togo.

Still, as long as he remained single, the prince's acknowledgment of the two children did nothing to calm succession worries, as Monaco's constitution specifies that only "direct and legitimate" descendants can assume the throne. As the problem posed by Albert's bachelor status dragged on, the constitution was revised to allow Caroline to succeed him.

Albert and Wittstock have stressed their desire to have a family.

"I love children and have always wanted to have children of my own," said Wittstock in an interview with France's BFM television. "We'll see in the next couple of months or years."

With her steely blue eyes and shoulder-length platinum locks, Wittstock has more than a passing resemblance to Grace. Still, she struggled at first to match the late princess' legendary elegance, and some of her first public appearances with Albert were marred by fashion faux pas.

With the help of Giorgio Armani, Wittstock has blossomed over the years into the very picture of understated chic, in beige sheath dresses and sharp-lined gray pantsuits.

When her engagement was announced last June, there was little doubt the Italian couturier would design Wittstock's wedding dress. That also meant there has been none of the frenetic guessing games that surrounded the identity of the designer of Kate Middleton's wedding gown, kept under lockdown until the moment the now-Duchess of Cambridge stepped into Westminster Abbey.

Indeed, authorities here appear determined to avoid many of the excesses of the April 29 British royal wedding, which with an estimated 2 billion viewers may have been the most-watched event in history.

There'll be none of the commemorative kitsch that abounded at the British wedding, where everything from tea bags to toilet seat covers were emblazoned with the royal couple's broadly smiling faces. Souvenir shops in the principality will be selling only a handful of palace-approved memorabilia, including porcelain with the couple's names but no images, vendors have said.

Monaco is also getting a makeover ahead of the wedding, with workers racing to touch up the peach-colored facades of the 2-square-kilometer country's many high-rises, Art Deco casinos and five-star hotels.

Bay: New 3-D 'Transformers' better than No. 2

By SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Director Michael Bay promises that the third *Transformers* movie is way better than the second.

The 46-year-old's pride was bruised after part two of the franchise, 2009's *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*, did a bang-up job at the box office (bringing in more than \$400 million domestically) but was roundly beat-up by critics. *Rolling Stone*'s Peter Travers said the movie was so "beyond bad, it carves out its own category of godawfulness." It also won the Razzie that year for worst director, worst script, and worst film.

Now, Bay is back with *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*, which opens in IMAX 3-D on Tuesday night and goes wide

at midnight Wednesday. When asked to describe the new movie, Bay said, "It's a lot better than No. 2."

"This one is much more of a mystery," he said, sitting at a shady outdoor table on the Paramount lot. "It's really epic in scope, it's got more heart. It's kind of back down to basics. Movie two, we kind of went off on a tangent."

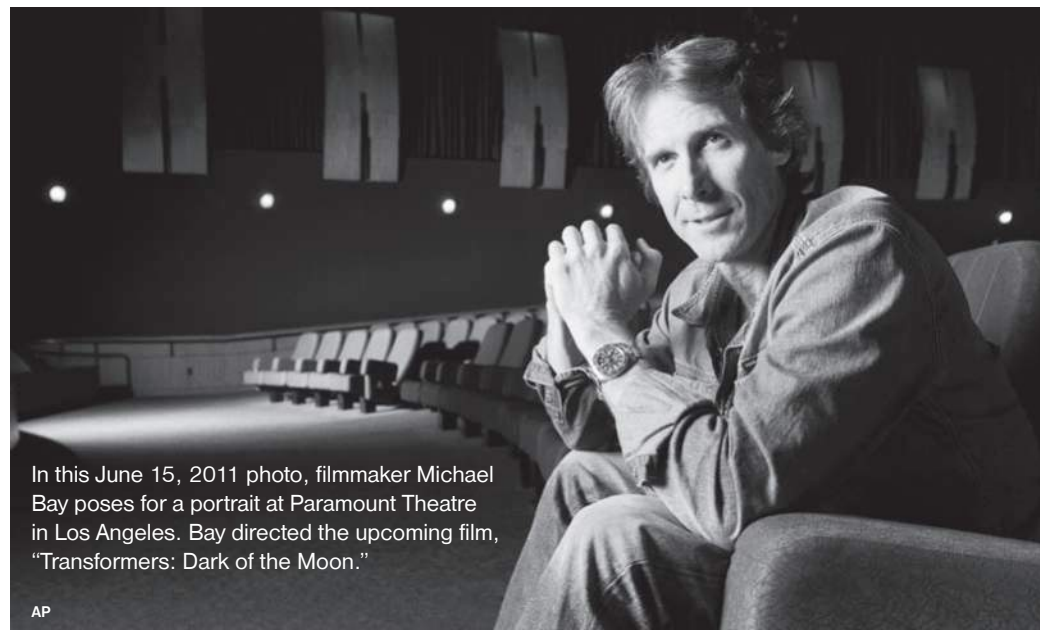
That tangent brought Sam Witwicky (Shia LaBeouf) and his giant robot friends and foes to Egypt, where he and the noble Autobots fought to save humankind—and the Earth and the sun—from the evil Decepticons. LaBeouf said the second film was "just far too complicated," but volume three is "simple enough to be able to enjoy. ... It's without a doubt our best film."

Besides a more straightfor-

ward plot, *Transformers: Dark of the Moon* introduces new cast members Frances McDormand, John Malkovich, Patrick Dempsey, Ken Jeong and Victoria's Secret model Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, who replaces Megan Fox as Sam's love interest. (Bay told *GQ* magazine that executive producer Steven Spielberg demanded he fire Fox after she compared Bay to Hitler.)

Dark of the Moon also introduces a whole new dimension as Bay's first 3-D film. Though he didn't initially embrace the technology, the film lent itself to 3-D "because just the size differential between robots and humans," the director said. "You can really feel it."

Shooting in 3-D affected his filming style, requiring longer shots and wider frames. It's more expensive and more time



In this June 15, 2011 photo, filmmaker Michael Bay poses for a portrait at Paramount Theatre in Los Angeles. Bay directed the upcoming film, "Transformers: Dark of the Moon."

AP

consuming, but ultimately Bay found he enjoyed "sculpting with space" and pushing the boundaries of the technology.

He shot more than half the footage with 3-D cameras, including soaring images captured by wing-suited stuntmen flying off of high-rise buildings. "We were able to strap that camera on things that it's never been on before," he said. "You look at it and you just know it's real. You can't fake that stuff."

Only 10 to 15 percent of the movie is completely computer generated. The remaining footage was carefully converted from flat images to dimensional ones by a team of more than 5,000 artists who spent a year on the project. Even Spielberg gave the 3-D his thumbs-up, Bay said. "Spielberg said to me, 'This is the best 3-D I've ever seen,'" the director proudly recalled. "And, you know, he doesn't blow smoke."

Transformers: Dark of the Moon opens with the historic American moon landing, which ends up being more than an exploratory mission advancing the U.S. space program and national pride. It turns out a Cybertronian spaceship crash-landed there, and the astronauts are there to investigate.

Like the second *Transformers* flick, this story spans the globe, from China to Africa to Angkor Wat. The film has its world premiere this week in Moscow, which became a billion-dollar movie market in 2010. The last *Transformers* was China's biggest box-office hit to date. Bay said international test screenings of No. 3 have impressed audiences so far, and he makes his movies for audiences, not critics.

"Honestly, they've had a field day making fun of me, but people go to my movies in droves," Bay said. "You can't do movies for critics. You've got to do

movies that you like and you feel in your gut and hopefully the audience likes."

This time, the sprawling story culminates with skyscrapers toppling on Chicago's Michigan Avenue. Peter Cullen, who voices lead Autobot Optimus Prime, said Bay was like the chief of his own army during the making of *Transformers*. "I compare him to Norman Schwarzkopf, you know, Stormin' Norman. Here's a guy in charge of this massive undertaking, and he gets it done," said the veteran voice actor.

Despite a history of action-packed box-office juggernauts, Bay said with the longer shots and 3-D action scenes, "this one really tops myself."

LaBeouf said pride also had a lot to do with it. "Everybody just fired on another level on this movie," he said. "We all have a lot of pride, you know. And so everybody came to really play this time."

'Cars 2' keeps Pixar in driver's seat with \$68M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pixar Animation remains undefeated at the box-office races.

The Disney unit's animated sequel "Cars 2" cruised to a No. 1 finish with a \$68 million opening weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. That makes 12 wins in a row for Pixar since the company's first feature film, 1995's "Toy Story."

"It couldn't be any better than that. What an unbelievable track record these guys have," said Chuck Viane, head of distribution for Disney.

"Cars 2" added \$42.9 million in 18 overseas markets, giving it a worldwide total of \$110.9 million.

Domestically, "Cars 2" nearly matched the \$68.1 million debut of Disney-Pixar's "Up" two years ago, though it was well below the company's record of \$110.3 million for last year's "Toy Story 3."

The original "Cars" had a \$60.1 million debut in 2006, but factoring in today's higher admission prices, it sold more tickets than "Cars 2."

Premiering in second-place was Cameron Diaz's classroom comedy "Bad Teacher" with

1. "Cars 2," \$68 million (\$42.9 million international).
2. "Bad Teacher," \$31 million (\$12.9 million international).
3. "Green Lantern," \$18.4 million.
4. "Super 8," \$12.1 million (\$10.5 million international).
5. "Mr. Popper's Penguins," \$10.3 million.
6. "X-Men: First Class," \$6.6 million.
7. "The Hangover Part II," \$5.9 million.
8. "Bridesmaids," \$5.4 million (\$11.5 million international).
9. "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides," \$4.7 million (\$13.5 million international).
10. "Midnight in Paris," \$4.5 million.

\$31 million. The Sony Pictures release added \$12.9 million overseas in about 10 countries.

The previous weekend's No. 1 flick, Ryan Reynolds' "Green Lantern," fell to third-place with \$18.4 million. That was off a steep 65 percent from its revenues over opening weekend, raising the domestic total for the

Warner Bros. superhero tale to \$89.3 million.

While the G-rated "Cars 2" cornered the family market, "Bad Teacher" was the weekend's grown-up choice, starring Diaz as a foul-mouthed, boozy, gold-digging educator.

"She just went with it with great abandonment. She totally just let it go," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony.

While women accounted for 63 percent of the audience for "Bad Teacher," Sony executives hope word-of-mouth over Diaz's brazen performance will draw more men to see it in the coming weeks.

Overall domestic revenues totaled \$176 million, up 6.7 percent from the same period last year, when "Toy Story 3" remained No. 1 in its second weekend with \$59.3 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

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Cars 2

Frid & Sat 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
 Sun thru Tues 1:05 4:05 7:05

Owen Wilson, John Turturro
 Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis

Ratatouille producer Brad Lewis steps into the director's chair for this sequel that follows race-track legend Lightning McQueen and his trusty sidekick, Mater, as they secure their passports and prepare to take part in the biggest and fastest race on the planet.



Bad Teacher

Frid & Sat 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40
 Sun thru Tues 1:25 4:25 7:25

Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake
 Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

The film concerns a foul-mouthed seventh grade teacher who is dumped by her sugar daddy and starts to pursue a colleague, which provokes conflict with the school's model teacher.



Green Lantern

Frid & Sat 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
 Sun thru Tues 1:15 4:15 7:15

Ryan Reynolds, Blake Lively
 Action • Rated PG 13

Transformers:
Dark of the Moon
OPENING
WEDNESDAY
JUNE 29TH



Mr. Popper's Penguins

Frid & Sat 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:50
 Sun thru Tues 1:20 4:20 7:20

Jim Carrey, Carla Gugino
 Children's/family, Comedy • Rated PG



Super 8

Frid & Sat 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Sun thru Tues 1:30 4:30 7:30

Kyle Chandler, Elle Fanning
 Science Fiction • Rated PG 13



Kung Fu Panda 2

Frid & Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
 Sun thru Tues 1:00 4:00 7:00

Jack Black, Angelina Jolie
 Children's Family • Rated PG



X-Men: First Class

Frid & Sat 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:45
 Sun thru Tues 1:10 4:10 7:10

James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender
 Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

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La Toya Jackson says Michael feared he'd be killed

By **NEKESA MUMBI MOODY**
AP MUSIC WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Jackson spent the last months of his life frightened and on edge, convinced that he would be killed by people wanting to get access to his valuable music catalog, according to his sister, La Toya Jackson.

Jackson makes the claims in her new book, "Starting Over," which also chronicles her own troubles, including an abusive marriage to her late ex-manager/husband, Jack Gordon.

Jackson says that she and her brother went through similar experiences of being controlled and manipulated by shadowy figures that cut them off from their family.

"The difference is, I was eventually able to get away and start over; Michael can't start over," she said.

Saturday will mark the two-year anniversary of the King of Pop's death at age 50. Dr. Conrad Murray is charged with involuntary manslaughter, accused of giving him an overdose of the anesthetic propofol and other sedatives. He has pleaded not guilty; the trial is set for September.

However, Jackson's sister called Murray "the fall guy." She said there were other people who needed to be investigated and described Jackson's death as part of a wide conspiracy. Jackson was the co-owner of the lucrative Sony/ATV catalog, the copyright holder of the Beatles' and other artists' songs, and his older sister contends he was murdered for control of it.

"This is definitely something that was premeditated, that they had planned to do, and they planned to take my brother out, and my brother knew it, and that's why my brother told me repeatedly, repeatedly and repeatedly, that this was going to happen to him," she said in an interview Wednesday. "He explained to me, 'It's because of my catalog.'"

Jackson had harsh words for John Branca, the co-executor of Jackson's estate, accusing him of being more interested in his own interests than those of the beneficiaries of the estate—Jackson's mother, his three children and charitable causes.

"They care about what they

can do and what they can get their hands on, and no one in the family has anything to do with the estate," she said. "At this point, blatantly said, John Branca right now is Michael Jackson."

In response to Jackson's statements, the estate issued this statement: "After numerous hearings and after reviewing evidence contained in countless filings and exhibits, three California courts have decided John Branca and John McClain are the rightful and lawful executors of Michael Jackson's Estate just as Michael specified in his will.

"Mr. Branca and Mr. McClain have turned the estate around financially for the benefit of Michael's children and mother, protected the intellectual property and music catalog assets Michael accumulated during his lifetime as well as carried out their mandate to shelter and preserve funds for his children until they reach certain ages as adults. Their performance as the executors of Michael's estate is a matter of extensive public record and speaks for itself."

Jackson's three children—Prince Michael, Paris and Blanket—are being cared for by Jackson's mother, Katherine. Unlike when they were in their father's care, they no longer shield their faces with masks and have entered private school: "They are adjusting very well," Jackson said.

Jackson, who has appeared on "Celebrity Apprentice" and "Dancing With the Stars" since her brother's death, was once estranged from her brother and the rest of her family. She even went so far as to support charges that Jackson was a child molester when he was first accused of the crime in 1993 (he was not charged in that case and was acquitted of similar charges in 2005).

But she said she was then under the control of her ex-husband, who forced her to say negative things about her brother. She said Gordon beat her on a regular basis and threatened the lives of her family; she eventually broke away from him with the intervention of her brother Randy, according to the book.

Jackson, who now calls Michael "godlike," said the day she spoke out against her brother was the worst day of her life. However, she said Jackson forgave her.

"He said, 'La Toya ... I know your heart, and I know you would never do anything like that, and I know he forced you and made you to do that,' she said. "He says, 'I love you, and I will always love you.'"

Jackson said she's gratified that Jackson's once tarnished image has been rehabilitated after his death.

"I think it's wonderful that people remember him in a wonderful light," she said.



Jackson

Michael Jackson 'Thriller' jacket fetches \$1.8M

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—A famed black-and-red calfskin jacket that Michael Jackson wore in the classic "Thriller" video has sold at auction for \$1.8 million.

Darren Julien, president and CEO of Julien's Auctions in Beverly Hills, says the jacket was purchased Sunday by Milton Verret, a commodities trader from Austin, Texas.

The jacket is one of two Jackson wore during the

filming of the 1983 "Thriller" video. Jackson wears the jacket in a scene with a troupe of zombies who rise from their graves and break into a dance routine.

Verret says the jacket will be sent on tour and used as a fundraising tool for children's charities.

A portion of the sale price will go to the Shambala Preserve, a big cat sanctuary caring for two tigers Jackson once owned



In this photo taken May 26, 2011, a worn and signed "Thriller" Jacket that belonged to Michael Jackson is shown at Julien's Auctions, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

On family's vacations, three's company and four's a crowd

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My son is single and enjoys vacationing with us every summer. He pays all his expenses.

My married daughter has become jealous. Her financial situation is such that I would have to pay her expenses if she were to vacation with us. We also have a compact SUV, so when our luggage is in the car, there's room for only one other person besides my wife and me.

Am I showing partiality to my son, who does not have a spouse to travel with and is able to pay his own way? Most years I guess we could afford to take my daughter and pay her expenses, but I feel her financial situation is the result of her own poor planning.

DAD IN DES MOINES

DEAR DAD: I can see how hearing about the enjoyable trips your son shares with you every summer might sting when your daughter hears about them. But does she expect that you include her husband on these trips and pay his way, too? And what about the driving and luggage arrangements if her husband accompanies her? Also, if you invite only her, how would her husband feel about being left behind?

A more practical alternative would be to figure out some other activity you, your daughter and her spouse can enjoy together that doesn't involve travel.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a widow in love with a wonderful man. We have decided to live together for a few months before getting married. Had we done this with our former spouses, we could have avoided marriages that led to divorce.

My mother has always said living together before marriage is a good idea. That was, until I told her my fiancé and I plan to. She went ballistic! She said it's OK for others, but not HER daughter. Her main concern is what people may think or say to her. I told her to simply say, "It's my daughter's business, and she's old enough to make her own decisions."

I'm upset by Mother's reaction. She seems to think that because she gave me life she has the right to run it. I'm a mature, responsible adult who can make her own life decisions. What do you think?

SHACKING UP IN SYRACUSE

DEAR SHACKING UP: I think that as a mature, responsible adult, you need to do what is right for you. Your mother comes from a generation when standards were more strait-laced and judgmental than they are today. So remember she loves you, forgive her for "going ballistic" and agree to disagree.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am madly in love (infatuated?) with my surgeon. I had a bilateral mastectomy and he saved my life. The cancer is gone.

It has been almost a year, and I need to return for a checkup. I haven't stopped thinking about "Dr. Dreamy" this entire year. We are both in our 40s; I'm single, he's single. Would it be unethical if I act on my feelings and let him know? Should I get another doctor? Or do I just go to the appointment and "grin and 'bare' it"? Help!

"GEORGE" ON MY MIND IN PHOENIX

DEAR "GEORGE" ON YOUR MIND: You have nothing to lose by baring your soul as well as the rest of you at the time of your checkup. However, if there is mutual interest, it would be unethical of Dr. Dreamy to become involved with you while you are his patient.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

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Fans toast Jackson on 2nd year of his death

GARY, Ind. (AP)—Hundreds of Michael Jackson fans have marked the two-year anniversary of the singer's death by gathering for a memorial outside the Gary home where Jackson grew up.

The Times of Munster reports that revelers swayed to Jackson's songs during Saturday night's tribute. Poets, local singers and dancers also entertained the crowd. Mayor Rudy Clay welcomed visitors to the event and proclaimed

the city will not stop celebrating Jackson's memory.

Jackson died on June 25, 2009, of an overdose of sedatives at the age of 50, just before he was to begin a comeback tour.

Thirty-year-old Marshall Bingaman of Kansas City, Mo., says he made a nine-hour drive to Gary to pay tribute to Jackson's life. Bingaman says events like Saturday's memorial help keep Jackson's memory alive.

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NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 28, 2011 * TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2011-009

"PURCHASING OF FIRE PROTECTION & LIFE SAVING EQUIPMENTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DIVISION SAIPAN"



Proposal packets will be available on June 6, 2011, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 1:00 p.m. on June 14, 2011, at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 28, 2011 * TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2011-008 (A thru F)

"REHABILITATION OF THE SIX (6) FIRE STATIONS"

Proposal packets for each project (A thru F) will be available on June 6, 2011, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) is required for each set per project. Payment shall be by credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).



Project	Packet Fee(s)
NMHC 2011-008 (A): Susupe Fire Station – One	\$75.00/each set
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NMHC 2011-008 (F): San Roque Fire Station – Six	\$75.00/each set

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 2011, at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project sites, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project immediately following the Pre-Bid Conference. For the **Rota Fire Station**, site visit will be scheduled on Wednesday, June 15, 2011 – 1:00 p.m. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: June 30, 2011 * TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2010-016 (B)

"CONSTRUCTION OF TINIAN CAROLINA HEIGHT BASKETBALL COURT"



Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Monday, June 6, 2011, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Field Office in San Jose Village, Tinian, during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 16, 2011, at NMHC's Tinian Field Office in San Jose, Tinian, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: June 30, 2011 * TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2010-016 (A)

"CONSTRUCTION OF TINIAN MARPO HEIGHT BASKETBALL COURT"


Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Monday, June 6, 2011, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, or at the Field Office in San Jose Village, Tinian, during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

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This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply



MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a **Special Board Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, June 29, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.** at the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
- 2) Public Comments**
- 3) New Business**
 1. Board Poll – Air Service Support
 2. Branding
- 4) Executive Session**
- 5) Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chair, MVA Board of Directors

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Jacobson wins Travelers for first PGA Tour title

CROMWELL, Conn. (AP)—Fredrik Jacobson promised 5-year-old daughter Emmie that he would get her a trophy this year like the ones she saw other players holding up on TV.

Promise kept.

Jacobson closed out his first PGA Tour title Sunday, shooting a 4-under 66 in the Travelers Championship for a one-stroke victory over John Rollins and Ryan Moore.

"It's been haunting me," Jacobson said. "I've been on the board, I've been asked so many times from the kids, 'Did you get a trophy this week daddy? Did you get a trophy this week?' No, no trophy. So, I'm excited about that. I'm glad I'm not breaking that promise for her."

Jacobson, a 36-year-old Swede who joined the tour eight years ago and has three European Tour victories, had just one bogey in the tournament and finished at 20 under, two shots off the course record.

"I was hitting so many fairways," said Jacobson, who tied for 14th last week in the U.S. Open at Congressional. "It started clicking the end of last week. The last two days I struck the ball the best I ever have at the U.S. Open."

Jacobson hit all 28 fairways over the weekend.

Rollins and Moore closed with 63s. Moore missed a 4-foot par putt on 18.

"I'm not beating myself up over that putt," he said. "That happens in golf."

"It was a pretty simple left-center putt, and I pushed it right into the middle of the hole and it just slipped by the side," he said.

Nineteen-year-old Patrick Cantlay,

the UCLA star who had a 60 on Friday to break the tour record for an amateur, finished at 11 under after weekend rounds of 72 and 70.

He arrived to a loud ovation on the 18th green, but bogeyed the hole.

"I just learned what it's like to have a week on the PGA Tour, to make the cut and to compete with all the guys," said Cantlay, the low amateur at Congressional last week. "This was just my second go-around and it was a lot of fun. The ovations are special every time."

Rollins had four consecutive birdies to start the back nine and gave himself a chance to win at 18, by making birdie after hitting his second shot 4-feet from the pin.

"It seemed like every hole there was a roar going on, so you knew that guys were making birdies and all kinds of low numbers on the board," he said. "So I just kept plugging along and staying with what I was doing and managed to get a good round."

Michael Thompson, a 31-year-old who came out of qualifying school this season, shot the best round of the day, a 62, including a 29 on the back nine. He finished fourth at 18 under.

"It was very exciting, especially this being my dream to play on the PGA Tour," he said.

Jacobson was trying to become the first player since Lee Trevino in the 1974 Greater New Orleans Open to play 72 holes without a bogey.

And he almost did it.

He had 63 consecutive bogey-free holes before running into problems on the par-4 10th. His second shot went



right, ending up resting against the cart path, but after taking relief and pitching onto the green, he couldn't make a 12-foot putt for par.

"I caught a mud ball there on the right side," he said. "You've just got to accept those. With a long iron, it can take off sideways so I got challenged there. But I think I dealt with it nicely and kept playing well."

Moore birdied his first three holes, making short putts on each and was 5 under for the day through the first seven holes. He hit his second shot on the par-5 13th about 262 yards to 10 feet of the pin, but missed his eagle putt. His birdie put him in a three-way tie for the lead.

Moore made three more birdies in a row at Nos. 14-16 to get to 20 under and catch Jacobson again. But he hit into two sand traps on 18, before pitching inside 5 feet.

"When you shoot 63 in the final round, there is not a whole lot to complain about," he said. "My 18th hole is going to sting a little bit."

Jacobson's second shot on 18 stopped up about 14 feet away, leaving him with an easy two-putt for the win.

After tapping in, he threw both arms in the air as his caddie slipped the flag off the pin as a souvenir.

He hopes it's not his last. After all, he has two more kids.

"Alice is 7 and Max is 3," he said. "So they're probably going to want one each now, too."

Frederik Jacobson, of Sweden, celebrates with his trophy after winning the Travelers Championship golf tournament in Cromwell, Conn., on Sunday, June 26, 2011.

AP

NFL players hold phone updates on lockout

By **BARRY WILNER**
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER



Buffalo safety George Wilson likes what he sees and hears about the players' recent discussions with the owners to end the lockout. The Bills' player representative also cautions against getting swept away by expectations of an imminent settlement.

"We're definitely optimistic we're moving in the right direction," Wilson told The Associated Press on Saturday. "Right now we feel like we're having meaningful discussions. ... We feel we have the right people in the room, discussing the right things and both sides want to get a deal done. But even though we're moving in the right direction, we're not there yet."

Wilson said conference calls held in the last two days mark the first time in a while players have been briefed on a lockout that is in its fourth month.

"That's because there haven't been any developments the last little while," he said.

The players also were told more updates will come next week, when Commissioner Roger Goodell, NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith, several owners and players are to meet

again at an undisclosed location.

"There's definitely going to be talks every week because time is of the essence," Wilson said.

One person with knowledge of the discussions told the AP "not much progress" was made in the fourth round of recent meetings, in Hull, Mass. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the negotiations are supposed to be confidential.

The key issue is how to divide revenues—the league took in about \$9.3 billion last year. One person familiar with the owners' proposal told the AP on Tuesday that the players' share would approach the 50 percent the NFLPA has said it has received throughout the last decade. But the expense credits—about \$1 billion last year—that the league takes off the top would disappear.

Also, there would no longer be "designated revenues" from which the players would share. Instead, the players would share from the entire pool of income, which both sides project will grow significantly over the course of a new CBA. If the players are taking 48 percent of a much higher revenue stream, for example, and there is not initial NFL deduction for operating expenses, the players still would receive far more money than they got under the previous agreement.

Germany, France win on opening day of World Cup



SINSHEIM, Germany (AP)—On a great day for women's soccer, it was a good day for Europe's teams.

The World Cup started Sunday with two stadiums overflowing with goodwill, color and the cheer of nearly 100,000 fans. There were also four goals, including one stunner.

Germany, the two-time defending champion, survived opening-game jitters to beat Canada 2-1 in Berlin and showed that the hosts will be the team to beat.

"It is fantastic," said Germany's No. 1 fan in the stands, Chancellor Angela Merkel.

France won the opener against Nigeria 1-0 in Sinshiem to leave the continental neighbors in charge of Group A. The United States begins play in the 16-team tournament Tuesday, facing North Korea in Group C in Dresden.

Beyond the games themselves, the upbeat spirit of the women's game stood out Sunday. Riding the spirit of the crowds, the atmosphere approached that of the men's 2006 World Cup—also in Germany—even if the action rarely did.

One clear exception came at Berlin's Olympic Stadium. Canada's Christine Sinclair, playing with a broken nose for most of the second half, highlighted the day with a stunning, perfectly curled free kick late in the game. That briefly gave Canada hope, but Germany survived on grit.

"The doctors told me her nose was broken, but she asked me to let her play," Canada coach Carolina Morace said. "I asked if it would be dangerous, but Christine is a smart player—she knows what she can do and what she can't do."

It was the first goal Germany had conceded in the World Cup since 2003.

At the site of the men's final five years ago, hundreds of German flags came out as Kerstin Garefrekes scored Germany's first goal in the 10th minute and the home team support continued the rest of the evening.

"The fans were great," Neid said. "People had the feeling it could be getting close and they really got behind us. I thought it was a brilliant reaction."

In the opening ceremony, a globe was revealed to have mirrors that reflected some of those in the sellout crowd of 73,680. Before the game started, waves rippled across the stadium.

From Berlin's daunting stadium, the contrast could hardly be greater nearly 400 miles south of the capital—the bucolic setting of the Rhein-Neckar-Arena, surrounded by wheatfields and an old hilltop castle.

There was hardly an empty seat as Nigeria and France ushered in the tournament before 25,475 fans under an azure sky dotted with puffy clouds.

Used to performing before hundreds instead of thousands, players loved it as much as the fans. With the crowds behind both nations and a Nigerian brass band adding relentless

rhythm, this was a stage most players had never enjoyed.

"It is really nice to have them cheering for both sides," Nigeria's Perpetua Nkwocka said.

France striker Marie-Laure Delie scored the first goal of the tournament in a scrappy goalmouth scramble, controlling a low cross and stabbing the ball home.

"We have three points in our pocket and no one can take them away from us," coach Bruno Bini said.

Sinclair might have scored the best goal of the day, but France had the performer of the day in Louisa Necib, a smooth playmaker who makes difficult passing look dead easy, much like Zinedine Zidane did in Germany half a decade ago.

"She is an artist," Bini said.

Germany's start was much more workmanlike. Up 2-0 at halftime through goals by Garefrekes and Celia Okoyino Da Mbabi, the hosts squandered several easy chances to put the game away. Sinclair's great strike ensured the match was fraught with tension until the end.

"We didn't pass the ball enough in the first half, we didn't keep it low and that's why we had trouble getting into the game," Germany coach Silvia Neid said. "And in the second half, we forgot to score. It got dangerous when they pulled one back close to the end."

Birgit Prinz was unable to add the her World Cup tally of 14 career goals, but received thunderous applause when she was replaced in the 56th minute.

Tigers stun Diamondbacks with late surge



DETROIT (AP)—The Detroit Tigers scored seven runs with two outs in the eighth inning to beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 8-3 in Major League Baseball interleague play on Sunday.

Miguel Cabrera hit a go-ahead single and the Detroit Tigers scored seven runs with two outs in the eighth inning.

The Tigers trailed 2-1 when Don Kelly singled with one out in the eighth off reliever Aaron Heilman (4-1). After a second out, two walks loaded the bases, and Miguel Cabrera hit a two-run single to put Detroit ahead.

There were further RBI singles to Victor Martinez and Jhonny Peralta, Brandon Inge hit a two-run single to make it 7-2, and Kelly reached on an error, with another run scoring.

Albuquerque (5-1) pitched 1 1-3 innings of scoreless relief for Detroit.

Giants 3, Indians 1

In San Francisco, Madison Bumgarner bounced back from a poor start with one of his best performances, striking out a career-high 11 batters in seven innings to lead San Francisco over Cleveland.

Bumgarner (4-9) showed no lingering effects from his historically bad outing against Minnesota on Tuesday when he became the first pitcher since 1900 to give up nine hits and record just one out in a game.

Phillies 3, Athletics 1

In Philadelphia, Roy Halladay pitched his National League-leading fifth complete game to guide Philadelphia past Oakland.

Halladay (10-3) walked none and

struck out four in tying for the major league high in victories.

Philadelphia has won each of Halladay's past eight starts. He improved to 30-3 in 35 starts in which the Phillies have given him the lead.

Red Sox 4, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Boston won its first game in five, downing Pittsburgh.

Andrew Miller (1-0) got his first win with Boston, striking out four and allowing just one earned run. Recently promoted from the minors, he earned his first AL victory since 2007 with Detroit.

Adrian Gonzalez had two hits for Boston and raised his batting average to .361, tops in the majors. Yet the Red Sox won by doing the little things, scoring their four runs on a Pittsburgh error, a pair of sacrifice flies and an RBI groundout.

Yankees 6, Rockies 4

In New York, Eduardo Nunez hit a tie-breaking single in the seventh inning after a Troy Tulowitzki error as New York beat Colorado.

Nick Swisher and Jorge Posada hit consecutive homers, while Mark Teixeira also went long for New York and Alex Rodriguez drove in a run for his sixth straight game.

Mets 8, Rangers 5

In Arlington, Texas, Jose Reyes had four hits and scored three runs to power New York to victory over Texas.

The Mets scored a run in the first off Derek Holland (6-3) when Reyes reached on an infield hit, stole second, advanced to third on a flyout and scored on a passed ball.

Blue Jays 5, Cardinals 0

In St. Louis, Ricky Romero threw his second career shutout to guide Toronto past St. Louis, and helped break the game open with the first hit of his career.

Romero (7-7) struck out five and stayed in the game even after being hit in the leg by a line drive in the ninth.

J.P. Arencibia homered and Yunel Escobar had two hits and an RBI for the Blue Jays, who had lost four in a row before sweeping the three-game series against the Cardinals.

Nationals 2, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Washington saw off interim manager John McLaren with a win, edging Chicago.

Hours after the Nationals hired Davey Johnson as manager, they won their final game with McLaren at the helm. The move came three days after Jim Riggleman stunned the team by resigning over a contract dispute.

Chicago starter Phil Humber (7-4) carried a no-hit bid into the sixth, but a two-out walk in the seventh was followed by Danny Espinosa's two-run homer—his 14th of the season—handing Humber his first loss since April 30.

Padres 4, Braves 1

In San Diego, Jason Bartlett hit a bases-loaded infield single for the tying run with two outs in the eighth inning and Orlando Hudson followed with a two-run single to vault San Diego over Atlanta.

The Braves scored an unearned run in the top of the eighth for a 1-0 lead. San Diego then loaded the bases on a walk, an infield single, a sacrifice bunt and an intentional walk off Jonny Venters (4-1) before the second out.

Brewers 6, Twins 2

In Milwaukee, Ryan Braun extended his hitting streak to 17 games with a tiebreaking home run that helped Milwaukee beat Minnesota.

Braun connected for a two-run shot in the fifth inning while Jonathan Lucroy had a triple, a double, a walk, scored two runs and had an RBI for Milwaukee, which swept the three-game series.

Brewers starter Chris Narveson (5-5) allowed two runs in 6 2-3 innings and helped his own win bid by scoring an RBI double.

Orioles 7, Reds 5

In Baltimore, Derrek Lee and Mark Reynolds homered in a four-run fourth inning, and Luke Scott added a solo shot in the seventh to power Baltimore past Cincinnati.

Baltimore hit nine homers to make it 16 homers in the three-game series.

Orioles starter Jeremy Guthrie (3-8) allowed four runs and four walks in 5 2-3 shaky innings but took the win.

Dodgers 3, Angels 2

In Los Angeles, the Dodgers got two runs in the bottom of the ninth to pip the Angels in the all-Los Angeles clash.

Aaron Miles drove in the tying run in the ninth on a sacrifice fly and Tony Gwynn Jr. won it with a two-out single for the Dodgers, who ended a three-game skid.

Dodgers starter Clayton Kershaw (8-3) threw his second consecutive complete game, tying a season high with 11 strikeouts for the second straight outing. He didn't walk a batter in his 100th career start.

Mariners 2, Marlins 1, 10 innings

In Seattle, rookie Dustin Ackley led off the top of the 10th inning with a double, then raced home for Seattle's go-ahead run when Florida's Steve Cishek threw a wild pitch during an intentional walk.

Ackley started the 10th by lining a pitch from Randy Choate (0-1) into left field for his first career double and third hit of the night.

Cishek entered and Ma a fly ball moved Ackley to third. Cishek had thrown two wide pitches in the intentional walk before slicing one well out of the catcher's reach and Ackley slid home just ahead of the throw.

Rays 14, Astros 10

In Houston, Evan Longoria homered twice and drove in five runs as Tampa Bay completed a three-game sweep of lowly Houston.

Longoria came within a triple of the cycle and had his first multihomer game since 2009—one of his homers was initially ruled a single until the call was overturned after a video replay review.

Matt Joyce delivered a go-ahead double in the eighth inning while B.J. Upton homered for the third straight day and drove in four runs for the Rays, who have won four in a row.

Royals 6, Cubs 3

In Kansas City, Alex Gordon extended his hitting streak to 13 games with an RBI double in a four-run first inning as Kansas City defeated Chicago.

Royals starter Luke Hochevar (5-8) is 9-3 with a 4.43 ERA in 14 day starts over the past two seasons, compared to 2-11 with a 5.28 ERA in 21 appearances at night. He departed after 5 2-3 innings, having given up three runs while striking out five.

Cubs starter Randy Wells (1-2) lasted six-plus innings, allowing six runs.

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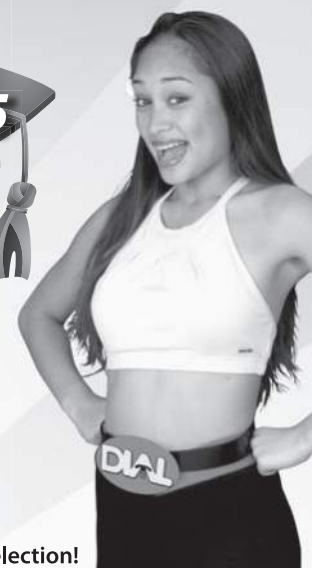


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Marquez vows he won't run vs Pacquiao

By **RONNIE NATHANIELSZ**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA—Mexican legend Juan Manuel Marquez has promised to go toe-to-toe with pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao in the third fight of their eagerly awaited trilogy at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on Nov 12.

In a telephone conversation with a popular sports show host, Marquez said “it (the fight) will definitely not be like the Pacquiao-Shane Mosley fight where Mosley kept running. As best as I can, I am going to fight him toe-to-toe and give the people what they want.”

Marquez, known as a counter-puncher, conceded that their third encounter is going to be harder than their first two meetings where Marquez claimed he was robbed of victory.

In their first bout on May 8, 2004

Marquez salvaged a draw after Pacquiao dropped him three times in the opening round. Judge Burt Clements, who scored it a 113-113 draw, later admitted he scored the first round 10-7 when he should have scored it 10-6 like the two other judges because of the three knockdowns.

Pacquiao won the rematch on March 15, 2008 by split decision with a third round knockdown making the difference.

“I think this is going to be the hardest fight between the two of us and that’s why I am going to prepare the hardest I ever have,” said Marquez.

He added that he has “a medical team to work on my power and I intend to match his (Pacquiao’s) power.”

Marquez, who will train in Mexico under Hall of Fame trainer Ignacio “Nacho” Beristain, is gearing up for a tune-up fight against Colombian southpaw Likar Ramos.



Juan Manuel Marquez of Mexico and Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines both have their arms up in triumph after their May 8, 2004 bout was declared a draw.

CNMI

From Page 28

over Guam, 6-1, and kept it rolling with a 6-2 victory over the Philippines its second 1pm (3pm Saipan time) in appointment.

In the first game, visiting CNMI took an early 1-0 lead in the second inning, but Guam locked it up at 1-all later in the fifth frame.

Then the CNMI answered with a four-run burst in the top of the sixth and added an insurance run in the seventh inning to start its journey off with a bang.

MINI

From Page 28

tions for athletes, and the cafeteria.

From MHS, White and company will head to the Oleai Sports Complex, the home of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, the track and field facility, football field, and the two baseball fields. The visitors will also check the Kilili Beach Park, which is the suggested venue for the canoe races and sailing.

From Kilili Beach Park, the officials will go south to Hopwood Junior High School, which is also recommended to house delegates. Lakhan and Minogue

In its second match, the CNMI fell behind, 0-1, in the first inning, but kept the Philippines at bay for the next three frames with flame-throwing pitcher Joshua Jones on the mound.

The CNMI then mustered up another late eruption in the fifth inning, this time for six runs.

The Philippines managed a run in the top of the sixth and held the CNMI scoreless in the bottom half, but came up empty in its final stand.

The CNMI gets another rest day today and will face the Philippines for the second time tomorrow at 11am (1pm

Saipan time). Then on Thursday, CNMI plays Guam again at 11am as well.

The games are broadcast live over the Internet at www.littleleague.org.ph.

The CNMI Big League All-Stars are made up of Elijah Aughenbaugh, Richard Dela Cruz, MacGarette Duenas, Nathan Guerrero, Dave Jones, Joshua Jones, Jeremy Lizama, Keoni Lizama, Juan Maratita II, Joe Palacios, Rocco Reyes, Nokki Saralu, and Eric Tenorio. They are managed by Joe Flores with Jonathan Tenorio and Robert Magofna serving as head and assistant coaches, respectively.

the CNMI bid committee.

The two officials’ site inspection and meeting with concerned groups are vital in the Commonwealth’s bid to host the Mini Games in 2017.

“It is my understanding that this evaluation visit will result in a recommendation to the council, which will award the Games when it meets in New Caledonia on Sept. 4. I’m certain that their evaluation will be a major consideration for the members of the council,” White said in an email to NMASA members.

The CNMI is battling Vanuatu and Nauru for the Mini Games hosting rights.

will also take a look at the Pacific Islands Club (venue for tennis and beach volleyball), Koblerville (proposed soccer field) and Coral Ocean Point Resort (for golf) before heading back north to the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

The group’s last stop will be the Laolao Bay Golf Resort, which is also being considered as venue for the golf competition.

After the visit, council officials will meet with the NMASA board later tomorrow night. Then on Thursday, Lakhan and Minogue are also scheduled to meet with the governor and lieutenant governor and members of

YVONNE

From Page 28

the qualifying heat for the 100m run in Day 1 to crush both the CNMI and Micronesian marks (12.68 seconds), which she owned. In Day 2, she posted 25.67 seconds in the qualifying heat for the 200m race, surpassing both the CNMI and Micronesian records (26.41 seconds), which she also logged in Palau last year during the Micro Games.

In the finals of the 100m run, the 21-year-old Bennett submitted 12.59 seconds and won a bronze medal. She had another bronze medal when she finished third in the 200m finals with a time of 25.70 seconds. In the pre-

liminary heats of the 100m and 200m runs, Bennett came in at second place in both races.

Besides Bennett, also delivering medals for the CNMI were Clayton Kenty ad Ryan Ichihara.

Kenty placed third in the 110m hurdles, clocking in at 17.43 seconds. PNG’s Reginald Monagi recorded 16.40 seconds to take the gold, while Guam’s Michael Herreros secured the silver with his time of 17.31 seconds. Kenty also joined the 400m hurdles, but notched only sixth place (61.28 seconds). PNG’s Mowen Boino (51.88 seconds) won the event.

Ichihara secured a bronze medal in the long jump after tallying 5.66m. Kiri-

bati’s Boitu Baiteke (6.52m) and PNG’s Monagi (6.03m) claimed the gold and silver, respectively. Ichihara joined two other events—100m and 200m races. He advanced to the finals of the 200m after logging 24.60 seconds and had a better run in the championship race with his 24.45 seconds. Ichihara submitted 11.96 seconds in the 100m qualifying heat, but did not make it to the finals.

Sylvan Rangamar was the fourth CNMI athlete to compete in Apia, but failed to win a medal when he placed only fifth in the discuss throw (31.15m).

Rangamar, Kenty, and Ichihara returned on Saipan last Sunday, while Bennett went back to the mainland after a successful campaign in Samoa.

will be encouraged to play badminton and then the sport will continue to develop here in the CNMI. I am happy to help NMBA in any possible way to promote badminton in the island,” said Bleaken, who is also expected to meet with adult players during her weeklong stay here.

Tolentino, Andrew Galvez, Hapi Gabriel, and Macoi Aguda.

Bleaken added in the next three days, clinic participants will learn more techniques and drills and they will also play in a mini tournament.

“Hopefully through clinics like this, more players, especially the youth,

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	45	31	.592	—
Boston	45	32	.584	1 1/2
Tampa Bay	44	34	.564	2
Toronto	39	39	.500	7
Baltimore	35	40	.467	9 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	42	36	.538	—
Cleveland	40	36	.526	1
Chicago	38	41	.481	4 1/2
Kansas City	33	45	.423	9
Minnesota	32	44	.421	9

West Division

Texas	41	38	.519	—
Seattle	39	39	.500	1 1/2
Los Angeles	39	40	.494	2
Oakland	35	44	.443	6

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	49	30	.620	—
Atlanta	44	35	.557	5
Washington	40	38	.513	8 1/2
New York	39	39	.500	9 1/2
Florida	34	44	.436	14 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	44	35	.557	—
St. Louis	41	38	.519	3
Pittsburgh	39	38	.506	4
Cincinnati	40	39	.506	4
Chicago	31	46	.403	12
Houston	28	51	.354	16

West Division

San Francisco	44	34	.564	—
Arizona	43	36	.544	1 1/2
Colorado	38	39	.494	5 1/2
Los Angeles	35	44	.443	9 1/2
San Diego	34	45	.430	10 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Detroit 8, Arizona 3
Boston 4, Pittsburgh 2
Baltimore 7, Cincinnati 5
Philadelphia 3, Oakland 1
N.Y. Yankees 6, Colorado 4
Tampa Bay 14, Houston 10
Kansas City 6, Chicago Cubs 3
Milwaukee 6, Minnesota 2
Washington 2, Chicago White Sox 1
Toronto 5, St. Louis 0
N.Y. Mets 8, Texas 5
San Diego 4, Atlanta 1
L.A. Dodgers 3, L.A. Angels 2
San Francisco 3, Cleveland 1
Seattle 2, Florida 1, 10 innings

TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

CROMWELL, Connecticut (AP) — Final scores Sunday at the Travelers Championship, a \$6 million PGA Tour event played at the par-70, 6,841-yard TPC River Highlands (a-amateur):

FINAL ROUND

Fredrik Jacobson (500), \$1,080,000 65-66-63-66-260

John Rollins (245), \$528,000	65-68-65-63-261
Ryan Moore (245), \$528,000	64-70-64-63-261
Michael Thompson (135), \$288,000	67-65-68-62-262
James Driscoll (110), \$240,000	69-64-64-67-264
Kevin Streelman (92), \$201,000	66-70-63-66-265
Andres Romero (92), \$201,000	64-67-67-67-265
Bryce Molder (92), \$201,000	65-66-64-70-265
Tom Gillis (73), \$156,000	66-69-66-65-266
Brian Davis (73), \$156,000	65-67-68-66-266
John Merrick (73), \$156,000	67-68-66-67-266
Blake Adams (73), \$156,000	66-66-66-68-266
Bo Van Pelt (57), \$112,500	66-65-69-67-267
Brendan Steele (57), \$112,500	68-64-67-68-267
Nick Watney (57), \$112,500	65-65-68-69-267
Webb Simpson (57), \$112,500	66-65-67-69-267
David Toms (51), \$78,514	69-66-69-64-268
Chris Stroud (51), \$78,514	66-69-67-66-268
Heath Slocum (51), \$78,514	70-63-68-67-268
David Mathis (51), \$78,514	67-65-68-68-268
Tommy Gainey (51), \$78,514	66-69-65-68-268
Johnson Wagner (51), \$78,514	65-63-71-69-268
D.J. Trahan (51), \$78,514	69-62-68-69-268
Steve Flesch (43), \$46,425	68-68-70-63-269
Bud Cauley (0), \$46,425	68-67-69-65-269
Zach Johnson (43), \$46,425	65-68-70-66-269
Ian Poulter (43), \$46,425	68-68-66-67-269
Carl Pettersson (43), \$46,425	68-68-65-68-269
Brandt Snedeker (43), \$46,425	70-63-67-69-269
Aaron Baddeley (43), \$46,425	67-67-66-69-269
J.J. Henry (43), \$46,425	68-67-65-69-269
a-Patrick Cantlay	67-60-72-70-269
Jhonattan Vegas (36), \$33,960	69-67-68-66-270
Chris DiMarco (36), \$33,960	66-66-70-68-270
Martin Laird (36), \$33,960	68-67-66-69-270
Vaughn Taylor (36), \$33,960	65-66-69-70-270
Alexandre Rocha (36), \$33,960	65-66-69-70-270
Bubba Watson (31), \$27,000	66-69-69-67-271
Tim Petrovic (31), \$27,000	66-69-68-68-271
David Hearn (31), \$27,000	66-67-70-68-271
Jerry Kelly (31), \$27,000	69-66-67-69-271
Spencer Levin (31), \$27,000	67-68-66-70-271
Shane Bertsch (24), \$18,840	67-63-75-67-272
Vijay Singh (24), \$18,840	67-68-69-68-272
Morgan Hoffmann (0), \$18,840	68-67-68-69-272
D.J. Brigrman (24), \$18,840	68-67-68-69-272
Tag Ridings (24), \$18,840	65-68-69-70-272
Charley Hoffman (24), \$18,840	67-67-68-70-272
Ricky Barnes (24), \$18,840	68-65-68-71-272
Colt Knost (24), \$18,840	67-68-65-72-272
Hunter Mahan (24), \$18,840	71-63-66-72-272
Scott Verplank (18), \$14,310	67-69-69-68-273
Joseph Bramlett (18), \$14,310	68-67-69-69-273
Aron Price (18), \$14,310	69-66-68-70-273
Joe Durant (18), \$14,310	67-68-68-70-273
Chris Couch (14), \$13,680	65-69-68-72-274
Paul Stankowski (14), \$13,680	67-68-66-73-274
Brandt Jobe (14), \$13,680	65-69-67-73-274
Carl Paulson (11), \$13,260	69-66-71-69-275
J.B. Holmes (11), \$13,260	68-67-71-69-275
Ben Crane (11), \$13,260	66-70-69-70-275
Fran Quinn (11), \$13,260	71-63-69-72-275
Padraig Harrington (7), \$12,780	69-67-71-69-276
Michael Bradley (7), \$12,780	65-69-72-70-276
Keegan Bradley (7), \$12,780	71-65-68-72-276
Sean O'Hair (7), \$12,780	66-67-68-75-276
Lee Janzen (2), \$12,240	66-67-75-69-277
Nate Smith (2), \$12,240	71-65-70-71-277
Dean Wilson (2), \$12,240	68-68-70-71-277
Briny Baird (2), \$12,240	70-66-68-73-277
Michael Putnam (2), \$12,240	65-70-69-73-277
John Daly (1), \$11,880	69-67-71-74-281
Zack Miller (1), \$11,760	70-66-76-72-284
Daniel Summerhays (1), \$11,640	69-67-75-74-285

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tammy beats Mami in Salvation Army 5K



Runners head to the southern portion of the island during Saturday's Inaugural Salvation Army Food Bank 5km Fun Run & Walk. Inset, Tammy Ackerman receives her medal and in-kind prize from organizer Brad Ruszala, right, and Salvation Army ministry leader Wayne Gillespie.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO/
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The Inaugural Salvation Army Food Bank 5km Fun Run & Walk had a surprise top female finisher in Tammy Ackerman.

The youth middle distance runner defeated perennial road race winner

Mamiko Oshima-Berger by only three seconds. The 12-year-old Ackerman completed the Saturday race from Salvation Army's office across Hopwood Junior High School to Mobil Station in Koblerville and back in 20 minutes and 38 seconds, while Oshima-Berger timed in at 20:41.

Oshima-Berger, who won the 18th Annual Tom Picarro "Silver Streak" Memorial Fun Run a week before

joining Salvation Army's race, said she and Ackerman ran together before the latter sprinted to the finish in the last 200 yards.

"She had a good sprint and I am happy to see a young runner like her run so fast," Oshima-Berger.

Despite losing in the overall race in the female division, Oshima-Berger still topped the adults category, beating Suzy Kindel (21:16) and Irma Halaby (22:15).

Ackerman reigned supreme in the female youth division, winning by about four minutes against Vanessa Bartolo (24:21). Soleil Lamar completed the Top 3 with a time of 32:27.

In the male adults division, as expected Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel ruled the field with a time of 16:32, followed by Tom Linden (16:36) and Aric Bickel (17:05).

In the youth division, Mark Calage finished first after clocking in at 32:23, followed by Eshaan Rejabhosale (36:55).

Sixty-four runners joined the race and they were soaked early, as a few minutes after they left the starting line it rained. The course was a bit slippery and runners opted to slow down a bit.

No entrance fees were required at the race, as runners were only asked to bring canned goods for Salvation Army's soup kitchen.

MBC implements registration system

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The revived Micronesian Basketball Confederation will now implement a registration system to avoid unjust transfer of players from one nation to another.

The system was created after MBC concluded the 2011 U15 Micronesian Basketball Tournament (west division) in Palau last weekend. Guam, the CNMI, and Palau joined MBT's west division and their players and officials were the first ones to get registration numbers. Yap failed to send teams in Palau. The east division composed of the Marshall Islands, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Chuuk are expected to follow the registration system after they are done with their separate tournament later this year.

According to the website of Palau Basketball Federation, which hosted the MBT, the system "will ensure each member country or state will not lose players to another country or state without giving their permission to other MBC-member na-

tions." The website added that the registration system will prevent youth players who are already developed by one country from being lured by another nation.

The system will also help ease record-keeping and strengthen MBC's eligibility rules.

Once a player plays in a Micronesian Basketball Tournament or Micronesian Games, he will be registered on the team entry form. Players in the U18 age group must provide proof of age when they enter a tournament for the first time and this will be recorded so that the player will not have to produce such proof, again. The system will also ensure that players are eligible for the age group they are playing in, according to PBF website.

So far 110 players and officials are registered with MBC.

The registration system is one of the several programs that MBC is expected to implement for the development of basketball in the region. The group was revived last year during the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau and will also hold tournaments for U17 and U19 age groups before the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei.

Camacho, Lebria are regular season MVPs



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Sakudi's Liz Lebria and Man Amigos' Julian Camacho pose for a group photo after accepting the 2011 Chamolinian Slow-pitch Softball League men's and women's divisions regular season most valuable player awards during the presentation held after the championship matches last Friday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Man Amigos' Julian Camacho and Sakudi's Liz Lebria finished out the Chamolinian Softball Association's 2nd Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League season as the most decorated male and female players after the conclusion of the awards ceremony that followed last Friday's divisional championships at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Both were selected as regular season most valuable players and led the league in runs batted in. Camacho drove in 37 runs this year, while Lebria and teammate Rachel Salalila shared the honor with 15 apiece. Lebria maintained a 0.606 batting average and was also named batting champ. Natibu's Jerome Delos Santos batted 0.658 to top the men's field.

Moreover, Camacho finished third overall on the slugger list, maintaining a 0.630 batting average, third in runs scored with 26, and fifth overall in doubles hit with four.

Lebria also finished third in runs scored with 16, second in doubles with three and third in triples hit with two.

Sakudi's Bert Camacho was selected as the ladies' championship MVP, while Man Amigos' Roy Celis took home the men's division honors; Celis also led the men's league in doubles with eight.

Bert Camacho crossed the plate a league-best 20 times, while Natibu's J.R. Suel and Ur Balls' Giovanni Ayuyu finished the year as the men's run scored co-champs with 28 apiece.

Check-It-Out's Didi Tudela won the women's double honors with four, Enamo Meta's Jovie Omar took the women's most triples trophy with five and the duo of Phat Boyz's Glen Camacho and V-Power's Fred Sato shared the men's triples honors with three apiece.

In pitching, Berdax's Jack Guerrero maintained a men's league-best 4.29 earned run average and Eileen Babauta dominated the women's field with an impeccable ERA of 1.69.

Red Eye's J.R. Brel (21) and T&C Clan's Antonette Laniyo (47) were crowned the strikeout king and queen, respectively.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Sakudi's Bert Camacho flashes the No. 1 sign while Man Amigos' Roy Celis smiles after accepting the championship most valuable player awards during the awards presentation held after the 2011 Chamolinian Slow-pitch Softball League championship matches at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The youngest men's team, Red Eye, and the women's division's T&C Clan won sportsmanship trophies, while Xclusive was declared the men's lower bracket champs earlier in the week.

Then just before the runner-up and champion team trophies were presented, CSA officials gave recognition to various individuals who have supported the league.

The 2011 CSA season was dedicated to "Braddah" Ton for his passion for family, friends, and fun as he lights up heaven's playground with the smile he showed in last year's inaugural season. Those in attendance also extended their utmost appreciation to Janet Aguon Iguel and family for their continued support to the league.

Another plaque of appreciation was presented to Mar-Pac Budweiser for its second year of sponsoring the league. Organizers also expressed hopes of receiving anew the company's support next season.

After the awards presentation, everyone was invited to feast at a moonlight barbeque prepared by various league members.

Call out meeting for Rotary Club caging volunteers



The Rotary Club of Saipan is holding a call out meeting for any community volunteers who are interested in assisting with this year's youth basketball league season at 5:30pm today at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

According to Rotary League organizers, thousands of children between the ages of 9 to 13 play basketball in the CNMI, and of these, over 400 end up playing organized basketball.

The Rotary Club is looking for active members of the community to serve as

level "0" to "1" basketball coaches, junior referees, and scoring table officials.

Rotary caging organizers will also offer free crash courses in the above-mentioned fields to those interested. More details will be provided at the meeting.

The Rotary Club caging is organized in conjunction with the Basketball Association of the NMI and FIBA.

For further information, contact Elias Rangamar at 235-1775 or email eli_rang@yahoo.com; Abner Venus at 664-2599 or email bulik29@yahoo.com; or Gabriel White at 234-6548 or email banmimail@gmail.com. (Walter Cepeda Sutherland)



**Jacobson wins
Travelers for first
PGA Tour title**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Tammy beats
Mami in Salvation
Army 5K**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2011



Yvonne Bennett wins gold in Samoa

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI sprinter Yvonne Bennett finished strong in the 2011 Oceania Regional Championships in Apia, Samoa, winning a gold medal in the last day of the competition.

Bennett claimed the gold medal in the 400m race last Thursday after clocking in at 57.66 seconds. Her time was a

bit slower than her personal best and CNMI and Micronesian records (57.14 seconds), but it was enough to pull her

ahead of Papua New Guinea's Venessa Waro (57.85 seconds) and Guam's Nao-mi Blaz (60.12).

Before her gold-medal win in the 400m run, Bennett shattered records in the first two days of the three-day tournament. She timed in at 12.52 seconds in

See YVONNE on Page 26



Yvonne Bennett, fifth from left, nears the finish line of the qualifying heat for the 100m run in the 2011 Oceania Regional Championships last week in Apia, Samoa.

WWW.ATHLETICS-OCEANIA.COM

CNMI sweeps double-header in ASPAC

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Big League All-Stars is the only unbeaten team in the Asia-Pacific Big League Regional Tournament; after bagging wins over Guam and the Philippines in yesterday's doubleheader at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium in Manila, Philippines.

The team arrived in Manila on Saturday, June 25, and was given a practice and rest day on Sunday.

Only three teams are competing in this year's Big League regionals. As a result, the tournament has been organized under a double-round robin format.

Therefore, if the CNMI finishes undefeated, it will be automatically crowned ASPAC champions. If not, then the top two teams will battle it out at 11am (1pm Saipan time) on Friday. Currently, the CNMI is positioned atop the standings.

Yesterday morning, CNMI won its 7am (9am Saipan time) opening match

See CNMI on Page 26



Joshua Jones, seen here pitching in a file photo, was the winning pitcher in the CNMI Big League All-Stars' victory against the Philippines yesterday in the 2011 Asia-Pacific Big League Tournament at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium in Manila, Philippines.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mini Games site visit tomorrow

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two Pacific Games Council officials will be arriving on Saipan tonight in time for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games site inspection tour tomorrow.

Pacific Games Council president Vidhya Lakhan and executive director Andrew Minogue are scheduled to touch down at the

Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport at 6pm and will be welcomed by Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White.

Then tomorrow, White will accompany the two officials to various sports facilities on island and he welcomes other local sports officials to join the visitors during the site inspection, which will start at 9am.

The group's first stop will be the Marianas High School where the visitors are expected to check the MHS Gymnasium, the classrooms, which will provide accommoda-

See MINI on Page 26



Big turnout in badminton youth clinic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The first day of the 2011 NMBA Summer Youth

Clinic yesterday had a huge turnout, as 79 players participated in the two-hour session at the TSL Sports Complex.

"Organizers were expecting only about 50, but we got almost 80. The response was really overwhelming and I happy to have these kids," said

Oceania Badminton regional development manager Nadia Bleaken, who conducted the clinic with the help of eight Northern Marianas Badminton Association players.

Bleaken arrived on Saipan Sunday for her second visit on island and will be here for one week before heading to Guam to hold similar clinics. She will run the NMBA clinic until Thursday.

"Basically, the clinic focuses on introduction of badminton to children who have yet to play the sport. They are a bit shy when it comes to asking

questions, but they are very attentive when you give them instructions," Bleaken said.

"We have a participant as young as 6 years old and then several players who are 15 years old. We also have several kids who play other sports like soccer and they seem to enjoy playing a new sport," Bleaken added.

The Oceania official said participants were taught about court movements, proper handling of rackets and shuttles, and some hitting and serving

See BIG on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oceania Badminton regional development manager Nadia Bleaken talks to participants in the first day of the 2011 NMBA Summer Youth Clinic yesterday at the TSL Sports Complex.